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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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Syrian forces hit a mosque with crude bomb, killing 11.

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Pacific countries are preparing to enforce historic shark protections.

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Philip Seymour Hoffman's heroin didn't have the fentanyl additive.

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**Obama poised to sign \$32.5M pilot food stamp program for NMI. PAGE 5**

## '902 talks on submerged lands'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**INIAN—Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he is pursuing Covenant Section 902 consultations with President Barack Obama for the return to the CNMI of 3-mile submerged lands surrounding five islands that are either part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument or under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense.

» **Inos has lawmakers' support in pursuing talks with US**

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## It's final: CUC base rate hike petition, non-rate fees OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission formally adopted yesterday its final decision to approve the \$2.8 million base rate petition and other proposals lodged by both the

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services.

CUC is now authorized to increase its electric base rates to produce an additional \$2.8 million a year via the creation of an infrastructure surcharge.

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## A step closer for 189 Tinian families

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

**TINIAN**—"At last, everybody would be happy. My children and a lot of families on Tinian have been waiting for this homestead for years. They would have a place to call their own once it's done,"

50-year-old Estevan Borja Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* as he gazed yesterday morning at the future site of a 189-lot village homestead in West San Jose.

Borja's two daughters—a 24-year-old with the U.S. Air Force and a 26-year-old employee at Northern Marianas College—are among the 189 individu-

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, fourth from left, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, fifth from left, lead the shoveling of dirt at the future site of the West San Jose Village Homestead on Tinian that would benefit at least 189 families, during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony.

als who, months from now, could start getting their homestead permits and start building their own homes for their own families.

Borja, a father of five, attended yesterday's groundbreaking for the West San

Jose Village Homestead, five years since the drawing of lots and some 19 years since the project started.

Once the access road and excavation of a ponding basin are completed within

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# Local

## King testifies that Quichocho hijacked her company

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Businesswoman Jung Ja Kim testified in court yesterday how attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, allegedly hijacked the company that they earlier sold to her.

In the continuation of her testimony in the ongoing jury trial in federal court, Kim also disclosed how she put up another poker company under the name of Quichocho's wife, Frances, at Quichocho's advice.

Under questioning by her lawyer, Robert T. Torres, Kim stated that she agreed to buy Tan Dingo LLC and formed Latte Stone LLC because she trusted

the Quichocho couple to protect her business interests.

Kim is suing the Quichocho couple, the Quichocho law firm, their company Karissa LLC, for alleged racketeering, legal malpractice, and other claims.

She recounted that in April 2008, Frances offered to sell her a company named Tan Dingo LLC that the Quichocho and Joaquin Atalig formed. Kim said the Quichocho informed her that they and Atalig would resign from Tan Dingo so she would own and control the company.

After paying them \$650, Frances reportedly gave her several documents and told her she now owns Tan Dingo LLC.

Kim said she later found out that the Quichocho and Atalig did not resign.

Had known that the Quichocho and Atalig would not resign, she said there would have been no reason for her to buy it.

"There is no reason for me to buy from someone else," Kim said. "Never. I will never buy it."

Kim said Quichocho, who was her then counsel, asked her to buy the company that he and his wife were members of. Kim said Quichocho did not tell her to get an independent attorney for the Tan Dingo deal.

She said it was her belief she was the sole owner of Tan Dingo.

Kim said Quichocho then advised her to transfer the poker machines from her other companies to Tan Dingo to protect her from her former husband. By October 2008, Kim said she had transferred a total of 26 poker machines from her other companies to Tan Dingo.

The businesswoman recalled that she learned that she was not the sole owner of Tan Dingo during a Tan Dingo meeting in March 2009, when Quichocho informed her she was not a

member since she had not filed any financial certification of confirmation with Tan Dingo.

In the first place, she said she was surprised about the meeting since she owns Tan Dingo 100 percent.

Kim also disclosed that she formed in October 2008 Latte Stone LLC upon Quichocho's advice, and had it registered under Frances name, apparently so her name will not appear as the owner to prevent her ex-husband from harassing her.

Kim said Quichocho never told her that he has a conflict of interest as her counsel to advise her to put up a company under the name of his wife, Frances.

She said she then transferred 10 poker machines from her two companies to Latte Stone for its operation on Rota.

Kim will continue her testimony this morning, Thursday. Attorney Colin Thompson is also her other counsel.

Attorney Michael Dotts is counsel for the Quichocho.

## Up to \$1M in remaining bond interest eyed for cultural center

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) will formally introduce today a bill re-appropriating \$1 million of the remaining \$140 million bond interest within the Commonwealth Development Authority to build a cultural center on Saipan, among other things.

Tebuteb's House Bill 18-167, co-sponsored by at least five other members, is proposing the construction of an Isla Cultural Centre within the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds in Garapan.

He said the cultural center would provide a venue to learn and demonstrate traditional Chamorro and Carolinian arts, crafts and traditions. It will also become an added attraction for

tourists.

The bill also seeks the development of various roads, including Bouganville Avenue and Rose Street, between the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds and the Garapan Fishing Base. This will provide easy and safe access to the proposed cultural center.

Under the bill, the expenditure authority for the \$1 million in proposed re-appropriated money would be the Department of Public Works secretary.

### As Matuis land

In other news, Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) will also be introducing today a resolution requesting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Department of Public Lands to reded-

ignate certain parcels of public lands in As Matuis for the construction of a "decent and safe community park."

The lot is originally designated public domain to the Public School System on July 12, 1989.

Leon Guerrero, in his House Resolution 18-54, said the estimated 44,485 square meters of public land, or Lot No. 045 A 025 have remained "unchartered and idle" for more than two decades.

He said the lot could be used instead for a community park that residents of the As Matuis Village Homestead have been asking for. The village homestead has some 300 house lots and Leon Guerrero said almost everything is occupied.

## Judge vacates 5 of 6 convictions of ex-convict Palacios

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday a motion to vacate the convictions of Jesus S. Palacios on five charges. An ex-convict in Guam, Palacios was found guilty last month of all charges filed on Saipan for possession of two guns and 27 bullets.

Manglona vacated Palacios' convictions on two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and/or ammunition, and three counts of unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm and/or ammunition.

Manglona, however, ruled that Palacios' sentencing will proceed on March 24, 2014, at 1:30pm.

Manglona issued the order after Palacios, through counsel Mark Scoggins, moved to vacate his convictions on five charges on double-jeopardy grounds.

Manglona said the six counts charge the defendant with a single instance of unlawful firearms and ammunition possession under two different sections of the law.

The judge said Palacios asserts, and the U.S. government agrees, that under these circumstances only one conviction may enter.

Last Dec. 4, the jury returned a guilty verdict against the 52-year-old Palacios on all six counts.

The filing of the indictment arose from an incident in April 2013 when police arrested Palacios for allegedly beating up his wife in front of their child and pointing a gun at her head when she refused to give him money.

The then 4-year-old boy told police that he witnessed the beating of his mother and that he also saw his father smoke "ice" and has four guns.

Police learned that Palacios was arrested in Guam in 1997 and was charged with murder, manslaughter, and possession of a gun without an ID. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

## Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-Childhood (H.O.M.E.) Visiting Program



### What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to improve the health and developmental outcomes for mothers, children, and families through home visiting services.

### What is the purpose for this program?

- The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program sets out to strengthen the early childhood system in the community and to support families and communities in the development of children who are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The program strengthens and enhances evidence based curriculum activities, expand and improve coordination, and assure the provision of comprehensive services for families who reside in at-risk communities.

### What are the program objectives?

- Promote and maintain positive-child Interaction and family involvement
- Provide and connect families to appropriate resources
- Protect and improve the health, growth and development of every participant served
- Produce and deliver quality service to families in at-risk communities

### What Services are provided?

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- Infant Massage
- Referrals to appropriate agencies

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\*At risk communities refer to pre selected villages that include Kagman, San Antonio, Koblerville, Dan Dan and Garapan



This has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) Division of Public Health H.O.M.E. Visiting Program, for more information please contact 236-8724/40 or simply email us at hvpcnmi@gmail.com.



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Funny. Independent. Dramatic. Witty. Loving. There is never a dull moment in our lives with you around. Everybody that gets a chance to know you adores you so much. You bring loads of happiness and joy to everyone around you. Happy 5th birthday to our butterfly princess, Shalei Terrie Kisa Camacho! Wishing you lots and lots of love and happiness. May the Lord continue to bless you in every way. Greetings coming out from Mommy, Daddy, family and friends.



## IN SCRUTINY OF DPL AUDITS

# MPLT consultant says DPL owes agency \$13M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Millions of dollars could have been added to the current investments of the Marianas Public Land Trust if all amounts constitutionally due it—amounting to over \$13 million as of fiscal year 2012—were properly remitted.

This was based on MPLT's latest analysis of available audit reports of the Department of Public Lands, the agency that handles all public land leases and related revenues due the land trust.

In a memorandum circulated among MPLT board trust-

ees, board consultant Bruce MacMillan disclosed that, using a Supreme Court decision and the Office of the Attorney General opinion, the amount due MPLT as of Sept. 30, 2012, is \$5.441 million.

"This represents many years of distributions to MPLT that were withheld going back to the '90s when the funds were accumulated at the Bank of Saipan," MacMillan disclosed in his report.

In addition to this balance, MacMillan reportedly uncovered funds that have been diverted from Marianas Public Land Authority and DPL that

should have gone to MPLT—expenditures that do not qualify as "expenses of administration."

He specifically cited \$1 million that the land agency gave CUC for fuel in fiscal year 2005. In fiscal year 2010, DPL also gave the Department of Finance \$2.5 million. Both instances were covered under a "state of emergency."

That same fiscal year, land compensation was paid out totaling \$2.2 million (\$262,944 and \$1.978 million). From June 2010 to September 2012, there was also a duplicate payment to the Retirement Fund treated

as a fully reserved receivable, amounting to \$1.957 million.

MacMillan indicated in his report that the total potentially due MPLT is \$7.699 million on these "expenses of administration."

"Given that the Supreme Court ruling and the AGO opinion do not allow DPL to withhold funds for future fiscal year expenditures and limits DPL to expend annually only up to its budget appropriation for the year, then a statement of expenditures (actual vs. budget for each year) would be helpful and should be considered a necessary supplemental

disclosure given the approved method for determining the annual distribution to MPLT," states MacMillan's report.

### Contingencies

Still based on the board consultant's analysis of DPL audits for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, it was found out that DPL has a restricted depository and non-withdrawal agreement with the Bank of Saipan whereby they collect \$50,000 per month since October 2004. It has been receiving such payments in the amount of \$600,000 per year and this represents accumulated net income from the '90s that should have been distributed to MPLT. The balance of this account is \$1.969 million as of Sept. 30, 2012.

DPL is also reportedly holding \$2.754 million representing Managaha Island landing fees. This is part of the cash balance as of Sept. 30, 2012.

Under CNMI Public Law 18-18, or the Budget Act of 2014, DPL was appropriated \$3.260 million for operations and \$2 million for homestead development. This exceeds DPL's estimated revenues for fiscal year 2014, which is likely to be about \$3.4 million.

"The question is: can DPL expend funds carried over from prior years due to not making the proper distributions to MPLT? Does the budget act limit them to spend only the revenues received during the fiscal year?" asked MacMillan in his report.

## Three rescue tourist from drowning on Mañagaha

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

An English teacher and two other persons rescued a male tourist from drowning on Managaha Island Tuesday at noon.

John Cole, 61, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he was able to revive the tourist using CPR with the help of another man and a woman.

The victim, described by Cole as a Chinese male, about 20-30 years old, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst confirmed that the victim is a Chinese male and disclosed that when the ambulance arrived at CHC, the tourist was conscious and was admitted overnight for observation.

Hurst said he has no update on the victim's condition as of yesterday.

Cole said the incident happened at 12 to 12:15pm in the back side of Managaha in waters that were about 6 to 8 feet deep.

He said he and his girlfriend were swimming on the west back side of the island when he noticed on his right side ahead of him a man and a woman holding up an-

other person. He said the man had been snorkeling and was found floating face down.

Cole swam toward them and helped the two persons bring the victim to shore.

Once there, the man and the woman help Cole in applying CPR on the victim. Cole said that after pumping the man's chest twice, water gushed out of the victim's mouth. The victim

then started breathing heavily.

Lifeguards arrived and placed the victim on a stretcher and brought him on a boat toward Smiling Cove, where an ambulance took him to CHC.

Cole said he phoned CHC late Tuesday afternoon to check on the victim's condition, but was told by a staff at the emergency room that they could not tell him about the victim's condition. Cole said he just wanted to know if they indeed saved the life of the tourist.

Cole, a native of California, learned CPR when he joined the U.S. Navy for four years as a radioman. He worked in Japan for 20 years and moved to Saipan last Nov. 22.

## Man allegedly lied about Rota fruit bat poaching

A man was indicted in federal court for allegedly lying to a local law enforcement officer about hunters poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats in 2008 on Rota.

The indictment charged Janry A. Santos with one count of false statement to a government agency.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Monday ordered the U.S. Marshal to release Santos after processing.

According to the indictment, Santos was questioned on March 7, 2013, and Nov. 19, 2013, by a local law enforcement officer who was acting on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Santos allegedly lied about not being present with other hunters at or near the Sumac fruit bat colony roost site on Nov. 1, 2008, on Rota.

The Nov. 1, 2008, poaching incident led to the indictment

of retired police lieutenant Adrian Mendiola, former Rota customs officer Albert A. Taitano, and former Division of Fish and Wildlife staff David A. Santos.

In 2011, Mendiola was found guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife, but not guilty of unlawful receipt or acquisition of threatened wildlife. He was slapped with a 90-day prison term.

Last month, Taitano and David Santos pleaded guilty to a

count of conspiring to unlawfully take and transport a threatened species—a misdemeanor offense. Their sentencing will be in March 2014. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## CUC eyes 4-year fuel supply contract for \$300M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

To ensure a continuous supply of fuel for its power engines, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is eyeing a four-year contract with its supplier—a plan that the utilities regulatory commission wants scrutinized.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission disclosed this during its regulatory session yesterday after it issued its final decision on the utilities agency's base rate petition and other proposals.

"CUC has notified the commission of its intent to contract for a four-year supply of fuel oil at a projected ratepayer expense of \$300 million. As part of the proposed contract, the supplier will be expected to loan CUC \$7.5 million to retire obligations to the current fuel supplier," according to a CPUC statement.

CUC operates three power plants that are all oil-fueled diesel engines.

In an interview yesterday, CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed to *Saipan Tri-*

bune that the corporation's current contract with its fuel supplier expires on April 30, 2014. He said this is why CUC is soliciting a new contract for fuel service.

"We spend about \$60 million to \$65 million each year on fuel. The cost to the customer is represented in the LEAC charge," according to Warren.

LEAC stands for levelized energy adjustment clause which is a component of the customer's bill that represents the agency's expenses on fuel. The other component is the base rate, which represents CUC's non-fuel cost.

CPUC yesterday indicated that it wants to review the proposed contract before a final decision is made by CUC.

"The commission has instructed CUC that this proposed procurement requires regulatory review and approval," commission statement said.

CUC earlier disclosed that it projects to incur this fiscal year a slightly higher fuel cost to supply the power generation needs of all its customers.

Just in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014—from Oct. 1 to Dec.

31—the agency has already spent \$16.9 million for fuel. It was disclosed that the average weekly expense for fuel is \$1.25 million.

It will be recalled that CPUC allowed CUC in December last year to reduce its LEAC charge. That resulted in an average of \$6.50 savings per month for residential customers. It also directed its consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services, to carefully review all CUC fuel charges since October 2011 to determine whether customers have been overcharged by CUC. If this happened, CUC will be ordered to credit customers for any overcharges.

According to the commission, Georgetown will also review the status of CUC's efforts to reduce energy losses for which customers pay but receive no benefit.

It was disclosed that CUC's energy losses were in the range of 11 percent; the national standard is less than 8 percent. CUC's energy losses represent almost \$2 million of unnecessary annual fuel expenses, the commission said.



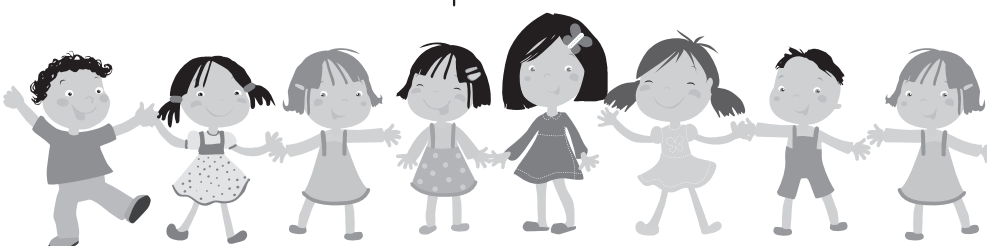
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## CUC

From Page 1

The new rate and tariff adjustments will become effective on the day after the commission's hearing examiner certifies that CUC's tariff sheets are consistent with the decision.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero said yesterday that the step is a "procedural process" to ensure that tariff sheets are consistent with the rulings.

The tariff sheets, which will be coordinated between CUC and hearing examiner, will reflect how the rate changes will be implemented. Guerrero said the commission is looking at its implementation in a few weeks—perhaps in the next billing cycle of customers.

According to him, it's a bit harder to calculate the base rate at this time because the Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. surcharge needs to be programmed and tested in the billing system.

Incorporated in the \$2.8 million base rate petition is the \$0.021 per kWh PMIC surcharge for all customers to fund CUC's remaining obligations under the buyout agreement with the company. This surcharge should expire on Jan. 1, 2015.

According to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher and chief financial officer Charles Warren yesterday, the base rate decision actually means a reduction of rate for residential customers who consume 340 kWh per month or less because of the "credit" approved for them.

As part of its order yesterday, CPUC directed CIC to provide residential electric ratepayers with a \$3.4 million refund. CUC is now authorized to institute a 36-month residential refund of \$0.023 per kWh, which will come from the rate increase for commercial ratepayers.

It will be recalled that Public Law 16-7 mandated CUC to provide residential power users this refund. CUC should certify to the commission on or before March 1, 2017, that the refund and reciprocal commercial rate increase have been terminated.

"It's actually a decrease [in rates] for residential ratepayers because of this credit. Those that are consuming over \$340 kWh per month are the ones who will see a higher

rate," Warren told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that more than 60 percent of CUC customers consume 340 kWh per month or less so majority of its customers will see a drop in their base rates.

The base rate is one of the two components of a customer's bill and funds the non-fuel expenses of CUC. The other is LEAC, or leveled energy adjustment clause, which is primarily for fuel expenses.

"Now that we have the order, we will go back on calculations and revise our rate tables in coordination with the hearing examiner who will guide us in the process," Fletcher said.

CPUC also adopted its order approving selected 10 non-rate fees proposed by CUC for both electric and water, waste-

water divisions.

## New customer block

After hearing the rationale behind the recommendation to revise the electric residential customer block, the commission also approved a new customer block that reduces the four classifications to three.

Residential power customers are now those using from 0-350 kWh per month from the previous

The two other blocks in the newly approved customer structure are those using 351 to 1,200 kWh per month and those using 1,200 per kWh and above.

## No pressure

CPUC members Joseph Guerrero, Dave Guerrero, and Oscar Quitugua told *Saipan Tri-*

*bune* yesterday that they are "very confident" in the decision they made.

They cited the amount of time devoted by the commission in reviewing and analyzing all information before them since July of last year.

"We're very confident in our decision. It took us a lot of work. We assured our customers that we're here for them; we represent the people. CPUC is here to protect the public interest and we will continue to work in their best interest," said Guerrero, adding the commission was truly independent in coming out with the decision.

"There's no pressure and this is not a popularity exercise. Our fiduciary duty is really to look at it independently," he said.

## FAMILIES

From Page 1

180 days, individuals can start securing their homestead permits.

"The permits are ready for the 189 lot owners," said Ray Cing, Tinian director of the Department of Public Lands.

As of yesterday, however, it's not clear where the funding for the homestead project's other basic infrastructure such as power and water lines would come from.

Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 700 square meters and over 1,250 square meters.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, along with other officials, flew from Saipan to Tinian to take part in the 10am groundbreaking, the first in a number of years in the CNMI.

The governor said he first

became aware of Tinian's West San Jose Village Homestead project some five years ago when DPL, under a different administration, drew the lot numbers.

"After that, it came to a standstill. It was plagued with many challenges like environmental and funding issues, and a lack of sense of priority," Inos told the crowd gathered on the NMC Tinian campus grounds.

The latest challenge to the project, he said, was funding, when the House of Representatives removed \$2 million from DPL's homestead program during the fiscal year 2014 budget process. When the bill reached the Senate, senators restored the funding to DPL.

"After the bill's passage, I told the DPL secretary, 'let's move it.' So we are here today," Inos added.

The governor also called on agencies to work with each other to ensure the project gets

completed.

He also hopes that with the future completion of the homestead village, Tinian residents won't leave the island in search of a better place to live.

Hofschneider, who has been instrumental in moving the homestead village project forward since he was senator, said he is thankful to DPL, the Legislature, permitting agencies and other entities that helped ensure the project will finally get off the ground.

He said the administration is revisiting policies whether homestead funding can also be used to finance the installation of power and water infrastructure, among other things.

Otherwise, the Legislature would have to appropriate funds, he said.

Besides the governor and lieutenant governor, also in attendance were Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz,

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Sen. Jack Borja (Ind-Tinian), DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, members of the Tinian Municipal Council, representatives from DPL-Tinian and DPL-Saipan office including Planning Division director Patricia Rasa, other government personnel, former government officials and community members.

## 'Do your best'

The DPL secretary described the groundbreaking as an "important milestone," considering that Tinian residents have waited long to finally have homesteads.

Tenorio urged homestead lot owners to "do your best" in ensuring they begin construction of "decent" houses for their families once they get their homestead permits.

"Live in them, don't secretly

rent them out," Tenorio said, as he also made special mention of the efforts of DPL's Rasa and DPL-Tinian's Cing.

The lieutenant governor echoed Tenorio's statement, saying that homestead lot owners should take their responsibility seriously as "there's not a lot of lands left on Tinian" for homesteading.

Two-thirds of lands on Tinian are leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

## Other developments

DPL Tinian's Cing said the original design for the West San Jose Village Homestead included 263 homestead lots but because of historic and cultural concerns in some areas, the number of lots available for distribution went down to 189.

"We didn't want to further delay the project so rather than come up with a new design, we just removed the other 70-plus,

and they will be included in another homestead development project," he added.

As far as Cing remembers, the last homestead to open on Tinian was about 20 years ago.

He said DPL-Tinian's goal is to have a total of 493 homestead lots to be distributed, including those homestead villages that will be developed in Barangka, Marpo Valley, and Marpo Heights III.

"There is also a waiting list with 136 names or new applicants as of today," Cing added.

Yesterday's groundbreaking came weeks after the governor signed last year an over \$656,000 contract for Pacific Cooperation Ltd. to start construction of an access road and ponding basin for the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision on Tinian. The 180-day work includes the grubbing, grading, and construction of approximately 11, 918 linear feet of road.

## 902

From Page 1

Lawmakers separately said yesterday they have the governor's back in initiating 902 talks with the White House so that resources would be "returned to their rightful owners."

Other possible issues for 902 talks, however, are "so fluid," including those involving U.S. military plans in the region, Inos said.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the United States allows for periodic consultations between the two governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

Either party can initiate the consultations. The representatives to these discussions are appointed directly by the CNMI governor and the U.S. president.

Inos' plan is to initiate 902 talks on the return of the submerged 3-mile lands around Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, Asuncion, Tinian, and Farallon de Medinilla.

"Anything over 3 miles will require an act of Congress. That's something we may not be able to bring to the 902 ta-

ble," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at yesterday's groundbreaking for the West San Jose Village Homestead on Tinian.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said he supports the governor "100 percent" in pursuing 902 talks because "after all, this is what is spelled out in the Covenant—all matters of concerns between the U.S. and the CNMI should be through 902 talks."

Rep. George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the submerged lands belong to the people of the CNMI, "whether or not there are minerals or other resources yet to be discovered."

"The way it was taken away was really not fair despite strong opposition by the people and the leaders. It was literally taken away without much negotia-

tion. The monument needs to be returned to the rightful owners, the people of the Commonwealth. As for FDM and Tinian, we did enter into a lease agreement. The most we could do is renegotiate the terms for future usage," Camacho said.

He said the CNMI needs to "take back 100 miles if possible."

"We can protect our own land

and submerged lands as the people of the Commonwealth and for its best interest," he added.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) supports 902 talks on submerged lands, saying it is an "important step to better our relationship and address issues and provisions in the Covenant that need to be clarified and resolved."

"It will bring positive closure to these issues. Equally important is the need for continued dialogue," Maratita added.

The last time the CNMI government initiated 902 talks with the U.S. was in 2007 during then governor Benigno R. Fitial's term. The topics included interpretation of Covenant provisions on immigration, minimum wage, and taxation.

On Jan. 15 this year, Obama withheld return to the CNMI of five islands' submerged lands until management deals can be completed on them.

But the presidential proclamation didn't include Inos' request for a 180-day period for a management agreement to be completed rather than an open-ended timeline that could mean the CNMI won't be able to con-

trol the remaining submerged lands for years to come.

A law that Obama signed four months ago gave the CNMI control over submerged lands 3 miles around nine of its 14 islands, making it the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), for his part, believes 902 talks is not the approach to tackling submerged lands but rather a sit-down with the U.S. Navy secretary and other federal agencies that the president noted in his presidential proclamation.

"Certainly we can try both avenues though," he added.

This year marks the 38th year since the establishment of the unique relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States through the signing of the Covenant.

## From 3 miles to 12 miles

The governor reiterated that proposed 902 talks on submerged lands would be confined to 3 miles because congressional action is needed on anything beyond 3 miles.

The CNMI previously requested control over 12-mile

submerged lands but this was shot down.

"So since the other coastal states have 3 miles, they made it equitable, for us to get 3 miles also. But unlike other coastal states, there are certain exceptions to the transfer to us—FDM, Tinian and the Marine Monument," Inos said.

The CNMI House of Representatives adopted Friday Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) resolution urging Congress to recognize the Northern Marianas descents' control over its exclusive economic zone—the submerged lands and water extending 200 miles around the islands.

Inos said the 200 miles will be hard to come by, or even 12 miles.

If it were up to him, he wants the CNMI to focus on the return of all the submerged 3-mile lands first "and then see how things go, and then we will go in for an extended jurisdiction."

"The problem is, I don't know that we would be granted the 12 miles...But again, we're unique. The CNMI was not acquired by anything other than through negotiations so we will invite the U.S. to come back to

the negotiation table and deliberate through that process," he said, referring to 902 talks.

## Gold, silver?

Like House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Inos would also like to hear from the federal government whether it has granted permits or licenses to international companies wanting to mine Marianas seafloor for reported multimillion worth of high-grade hydrothermal deposits.

Upon preliminary checking, the governor said there seems to be no permit issued to any seafloor mining companies.

The speaker said it would still be important for the CNMI to know "what's out there." Considering that the CNMI controls most of its submerged 3-mile lands now, questions arise as to the CNMI's authority over ongoing or future seafloor mining activities.

Deleon Guerrero, on his way to Washington, D.C. later this month, will be meeting with U.S. Department of the Interior and Department of Defense officials on a host of issues including the reported minerals and military plans in the CNMI.



# Obama poised to sign \$32.5M pilot food stamp program for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

President Barack Obama is poised to sign Friday (Saturday, CNMI time) a farm and food policy bill that contains a \$32.5-million pilot food stamp program for the CNMI so that it will get the full benefits of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who has been advocating for the inclusion of the CNMI into SNAP for years, said the White House announced that the president will sign the bill on Friday in Michigan.

This comes after the U.S. Senate passed Tuesday H.R. 2642 or the Agricultural Act of 2014 that includes the five-year pilot program for the CNMI.

The bill drew a bipartisan majority of 44 Democrats, 22 Republicans, and two Independents.

"We are part of the American family, so our families deserve the same help putting food on the table that other Americans receive," Sablan said in a statement yesterday. "Getting into SNAP means equal treatment for the people of the Northern Marianas. Whether it is food aid or education funding or any of the policies we work on in Congress, our goal is always to be treated as Americans."

Sablan became a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in 2011 and has worked for the last three years to get his constituents into SNAP.

At present, the CNMI receives a block grant from the federal government for its local food stamp program. The block grant does not change when the number of families getting benefits goes up. Each family just gets less assistance.

In nearby Guam, which is under the national program, benefits are double what they are in the CNMI, Sablan said. When the number of beneficiaries increases, federal funding also goes up.

"A family of four in the NMI gets \$444 a month. A family of four in Guam gets \$931. That's not fair. But this

## Free health screening outreach this Sunday

The Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program, a non-government organization, is hosting its second free health screening at the Minatchom At-dao in front of Marianas High School this Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014.

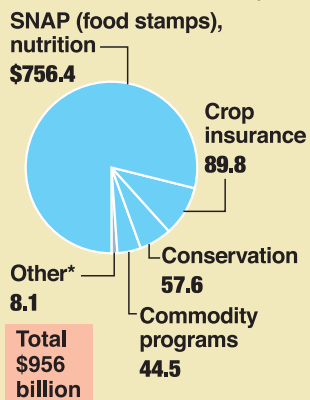
The health screening, which will be held from 7:30am to 12pm, will provide free services such as breast and Pap smear exam, hypertension and diabetes screening, eye check-ups from Hardt Eye Clinic, and influenza vaccines for children

### What's in the farm bill?

The five-year farm bill sets policy for SNAP (food stamps) and farm programs.

#### Where the money goes

Costs in billions, over 10 years



#### Highlights

- **Cuts** SNAP by \$8 billion, commodities by \$14.3 billion
- **Increases** crop insurance by \$5.7 billion
- **Ends** \$4.5 billion a year in direct payments to farmers whether they farmed or not
- **Limits** how much an individual farmer can receive in loans, payments
- **Ends** dairy price supports; farmers can buy insurance that pays out when milk price gets too close to feed costs

\*Includes forestry programs, rural development, farmers markets promotion, organic agriculture research

Source: Congressional Budget Office, AP Graphic: Judy Treible © 2014 MCT

new \$32.5 million we added to the farm bill will raise benefits here in the Northern Marianas and fix the unfairness," Sablan said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when sought for comment yesterday, said getting the CNMI into the national food stamp program would help circulate more money in the local economy of some \$20 million a year.

However, he said he also has "mixed feelings" about it.

"If the SNAP comes in raising the threshold—the poverty level or the income level qualification—those folks might just not work because now they wouldn't be able to qualify. It could be a disincentive to work," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

But the governor said this can be remedied by enforcing the rules.

"Even if you are willing and

## »Inos: Mixed feelings about SNAP unless rules are enforced

able to work, even if you fall within the eligible criteria, you need to show that you have applied and you have been rejected, and you can't be hired. It's not an automatic thing," he said.

Sablan said the farm and food policy bill sets up a five-year pilot program for the CNMI that begins with a \$2 million feasibility study in 2014 and 2015, and then raises benefits in the following three years.

Even if the study shows that SNAP will not work on the islands, he said the Commonwealth's existing block grant program will still receive \$30.5 million for benefits in addition to its current funding.

Sablan said he has been working to get more food for poor families since he was first elected to Congress in 2009.

At the time, he said, the food stamp block grant was \$10.187 million a year. This year, Congress appropriated \$12.148 million for the CNMI program.

Sablan said when the bill becomes law, it will make another \$13.5 million available for benefits beginning in October 2015. There are an additional \$8.5 million in 2016 and again in 2017, he added.

The delegate's ultimate goal is to have the CNMI fully incorporated in SNAP, so that as

economic conditions vary, the amount of federal funding can also change.

"Looking ahead, just when our five-year pilot program is nearing its end in 2017, it will be time for Congress to reauthorize farm and food policy again. That will be the perfect legislative opportunity to finish the job of giving the people of the Northern Marianas equal participation in SNAP as part of the American family," he said.

Once Obama signs the bill into law, more steps still need to be taken to bring the CNMI into SNAP.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is given \$2 million to begin immediately looking at how SNAP can be implemented in the CNMI. In this initial study,

USDA will be asking whether the CNMI has the administrative capability.

Sablan believes it is feasible to set up the plastic credit card system the rest of the country uses to replace the paper food stamps that the CNMI still uses.

He said the electronic benefit system, or EBT, will help the CNMI reduce the reselling of paper stamps and other kinds of fraud that can give the program a bad name.

USDA will also look closely at education and job training opportunities in the CNMI.

Sablan earlier said he does not want food stamps to be a way of life in the CNMI, but only as a safety net "to help people until they can help themselves."

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# CDA: Only 4 qualifying certificates are active for now

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The government's qualifying certificate program has only four active recipients for now, out of the 14 certificates issued since the program's inception years ago.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from the Commonwealth Development Authority yesterday showed that businesses that currently enjoy the benefits of the QC program are SandCastle Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Bridge Capital LLC, and Saipan Laulau Development Inc.

Records further show that a total of 10 qualifying certificates have been marked "inactive," mostly because these businesses simply didn't agree with the conditions offered and refused to accept the

certificates. Other QCs were either revoked or had expired.

SandCastle Saipan is the first business that benefited from the government's QC program when it invested \$1.5 million in 2001. It was given both rebate and abatement on excise tax, BGR, income, and developer infrastructure, among other taxes. The company still benefits from the certificate to date.

World Corp., which does business as Saipan World Resort, also has an active QC for its \$25.5 million investment made in 2005.

Saipan Laulau Development's QC, which the company acquired in 2008, remains in effect for its \$54.1 million investment.

Bridge Capital LLC was granted QC benefits in 2006 for its \$12.2 million investment.

Of the 14 QCs the government issued since 2001, 10 are classified as inactive due to varied reasons.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, which acquired its QC in 2002, had its certificate revoked in September 2011. When it first obtained the QC, the company's investment was at \$135.3 million.

Hard Rock Café Saipan, which got a qualifying certificate in July 2002, also has an inactive certificate after its benefits expired in September 2012. The company invested \$4.7 million when it applied for the QC.

The government revoked the certificate of the Spring Water Inc. on Rota when the company did not proceed with its promised \$1.6 million investment on the island in 2002.

In the case of Hyatt Regency Saipan, the company had lobbied with the then-governor not to sign the QC as it did not agree with some of the conditions being required of it. The company invested \$20.5 million in 2002.

The Rota Resort & Country Club, on the other hand, surrendered its QC in January 2005. The amount of its investment was at \$93 million.

Tony Roma's & Caprissiosa's QC benefits expired in May 2003, resulting in its certificate becoming inactive. The firm had invested \$1 million.

The former Dai-ichi Hotel Saipan, meantime, did not accept the QC in March 2004 despite investing some \$32.5 million.

We Manage Calls Inc. surrendered its qualifying certificates in 2005. The same case

was noted for PTI Services Inc. when it surrendered its certificate in November 2011.

In the case of Sandy Beach Homes, LLC, the company let its benefits expire in December 2011. The firm invested \$28.3 million under its QC.

Meantime, Saipan Surfrider, LLC declined to accept the offered QC in May 2013.

According to Carline B. Sablan, CDA economic development analyst, beneficiaries with expired QCs may apply for additional tax relief on expansion/renovation projects that meet the minimum capital investment threshold set by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000.

She said the application process would be the same: the applicant submits a complete application package to CDA; the filing fee is paid; a notice

of application is published; notices of the public hearing are published; a public hearing is conducted; the CDA board meets, in consultation with the Division of Revenue and Taxation, to make a recommendation on the QC application.

A QC, if any, and CDA's recommendation is forwarded to the CNMI governor, who is the ultimate decision maker for the program.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that CDA has 90 days from receiving a complete application package, including payment of the applicable filing fee, to process or make a recommendation on a particular application to the governor.

The governor, in turn, has 45 days to act on CDA's recommendation.

## Ayuyu's sentencing moved anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court has granted Guam lawyer David J. Lujan's

request to postpone once more the sentencing of former senator Juan M. Ayuyu.

In an order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found good cause to continue the sentencing, but not the three weeks Lujan asked for.

Manglona instead set the new sentencing date on Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, at 1pm.

Lujan had asked to postpone the sentencing from Feb. 7, 2014, to at least three weeks later, saying he is in trial in Guam on the week of Feb. 3 and has

another trial set to start Feb. 19.

The U.S. government and Lujan's co-defense counsel, Bruce Berline, did not object to Lujan's request.

The court earlier granted Lujan's request to move the Jan. 3, 2014, sentencing to Feb. 7, 2014. At the time, Lujan stated that Ayuyu just received the final sentencing recommendations filed by the U.S. Probation Office on Dec. 27, 2013. Lujan himself at the time was waiting for the verdict of a jury trial in Guam in a criminal case.

Lujan is counsel for Ayuyu in the obstruction of justice and cell phone possession cases, while Berline is counsel for the former senator in the fruit bat case.

Last August, the court granted Ayuyu's request for temporary release from custody while he awaits sentencing, which was at the time set for Nov. 8, 2013.

Ayuyu pleaded guilty in July last year to two charges relating to the smuggling of endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan. Subject to the court's approval, he will receive a prison term between 33 months and 41 months.

He resigned from the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate on Sept. 30, 2013.

## Man allegedly beats stepson

Police arrested a 34-year-old man last week for allegedly beating his stepson.

Ares O. Blancia was arrested on charges of disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and child abuse or neglect. He is being kept on a \$5,000 cash bail.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a teacher from an elementary school had called the Department of Public Safety about a possible child abuse case involving one of their students.

That same day at 9:47am, police officers Jesus Cepeda and Daniel Kintol arrived at the school and interviewed the teacher, who is also a counselor.

She told Cepeda that a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student came to school with bruises on his face. The teacher then showed the officers the alleged victim's written statement about what had happened on the night of Jan. 29, 2014.

According to the victim's statement, he had spanked and scratched his younger brother that night. The next morning, Jan. 30, his stepfather, Blancia, woke him up from sleep and spanked, slapped, and at some point punched the victim repeatedly until the mother of the victim stopped Blancia.

Kintol and Cepeda met with the alleged victim and observed red marks on his right cheek. When asked if he felt any pain, the victim reportedly replied that there was no pain, but he was experiencing abdominal pain earlier that morning.

Cepeda and Kintol proceeded to Blancia's house in San Antonio, where they met Blancia and his wife.

Blancia was arrested at about 11:09am and brought to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

Blancia is set to return to court on Feb. 24, 2014, after his preliminary hearing on Feb. 11, 2014. *(Jayson Camacho)*



### THE PARENT'S PLEDGE

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, when he was acting governor on Friday, leads the recital of The Parent's Pledge during the signing of a proclamation declaring February 2014 Parent Leadership Month, as well as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## PIC will sell ducks until race day

The 2014 PIC Duck Race is all set this Saturday, Feb. 8, but Pacific Islands Club Saipan will still be selling ducks if available on race day.

"We are still counting tickets and marking ducks as we speak," said PIC Saipan Operations and Events manager Dennis Tababa. "If there are any ducks left come Saturday, you can buy one here right before the event. This year has been extra special as we have already shattered last year's mark of 2,000 sold ducks. A million thanks to each and every one

who assisted with making this event a huge success."

In all, Tababa said nearly 2,500 ducks have been sold locally and all over the world, including San Salvador, Japan, Korea, Russia, Thailand, The Netherlands and all over the U.S.—California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Montana, New Jersey, Iowa, Indiana, Oregon, Hawaii, and Maine, among others.

PIC Saipan has pledged to give \$2,500 in cash to the first duck to cross the finish line. Cash prizes will also be awarded to the second, third, and

fourth place ducks.

However, to truly thank all supporters of the annual event, Tababa said PIC Saipan would be awarding \$250 cash and a PIC Room Stay Package to the owner of the 25th duck to cross the finish line.

Proceeds from the duck race will once again be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. All in all, PIC Saipan has donated more than \$30,000 to CCA since the races' inception. CCA uses the funds to help those fighting cancer here in the CNMI and to help raise awareness.

In addition to the rubber duck race, PIC will also be hosting The Race Around the River, also known as the Human Duck Race. A total of 24 swimmers will swim one lap around the PIC Lazy River. Outfitted with beak, caps, fins and lifejackets, the participants will be vying for bragging rights and a great team-building award as well.

Duck race director Glenn Policare said all 24 slots for The Race Around the River have been filled. Companies, organizations, and individuals that have thrown their hats into the Human Duck Race are Triple J Motors, KKMP, Marpac, Saipan Swim Club, IT&E,

Saipan Water and Ice, the Law Office of Robert Torres, Island Apparel, Xerox, IP&E, Trench Tech, FISG, American Red Cross NMI Chapter, Marianas Trekking, APEX, Microl Toyota, Team SEA, Team Hunsburger, Team Ahu, Team Benavente, and Team Balakrishna.

The Human Duck Race will start at 6pm on Feb. 8, while the rubber duck race will begin about 6:30pm. Admission to come watch the race is free. Duck tickets are only \$5 each. For more information about the Duck Race or the Race Around the River, contact Tababa and Policare at 237-5147. *(Mark Rabago)*



# Sea survivor's Salvadoran family thought he died

By MARCOS ALEMAN  
and NICK PERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**GARITA PALMERA, El Salvador** (AP)—A Salvadoran fisherman's account of his survival after more than 13 months and about 6,500 miles in an open boat has proved a double miracle for his mother and father, who lost touch with him eight years ago and thought he was dead.

Jose Salvador Alvarenga's family reacted with joy and tears after two phone calls from their long lost son, who said he was getting medical treatment and food—he later got a shave and a haircut. But he confessed to his mother he didn't really know where he was.

The family provided details that may help explain his almost unbelievable survival after what may have been as many as 14 1/2 months adrift.

His father, Jose Ricardo Orellana, 65, who owns a store and flour mill in the seaside Salvadoran town of Garita Palmera, described a strong, stocky young man who first went to sea at age 14. "The sea was his thing," Orellana said.

Maria Julia Alvarenga, 59, said her son always had unusual strength and resilience.

Recounting the phone calls with her son from the Marshall Islands, she broke into tears. "We hadn't heard from him for eight years, we thought he was dead already. This is a miracle, glory to God."

Jose Salvador Alvarenga's 14-year-old daughter, Fatima, said she didn't remember ever seeing her father, who left El Salvador when she was just over a year old.

"I'm so very happy to know he's alive," said Fatima. "He's alive and I'm going to see him."

Gee Bing, the Marshall Islands' acting secretary of foreign affairs, said he helped relocate Alvarenga from the hospital to a hotel in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands,

on Tuesday.

"He requested that we give him some time to rest. I don't think he got enough sleep at the hospital, and he wanted to rest and also get a haircut," Bing said. "When we dropped him off at the hotel, there was someone there to take him to the barber."

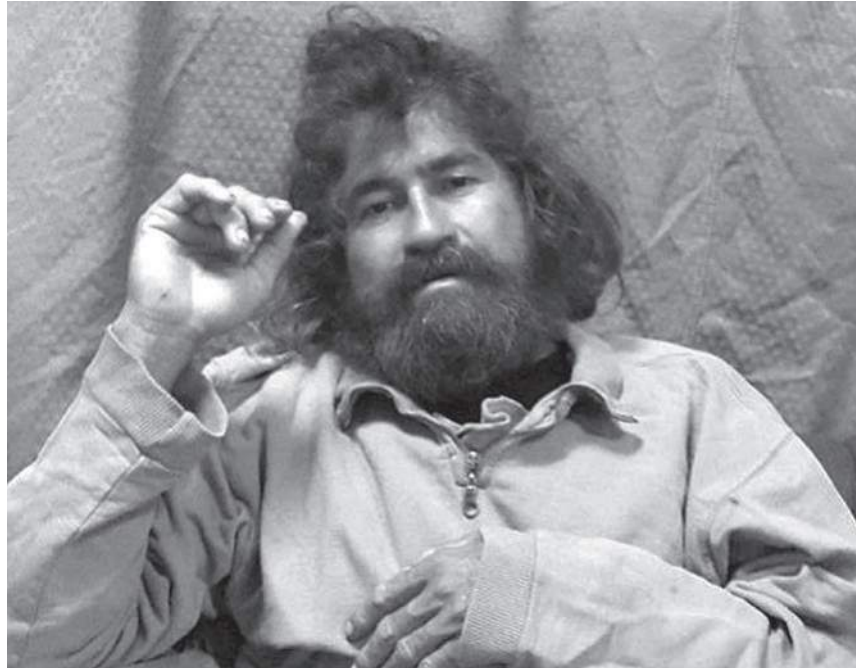
Bing said that at the hospital, Alvarenga had a constant stream of journalists and well-wishers wanting to talk to him. They brought him gifts, including blankets, pillows, clothes and fruit. The hotel stepped up security to try to provide him some privacy, Bing added.

The official said medical tests showed Alvarenga was doing well. He was taking vitamins, and Tylenol to ease his joint pain, but was otherwise recovering nicely. He said questions remained about Alvarenga's story but authorities were focusing on repatriating him to El Salvador.

Bing said that he expected it to take one to two weeks for authorities to finalize Alvarenga's repatriation, and that the Marshall Islands government would likely pick up the tab for his stay.

The official said Alvarenga also spoke by phone Tuesday to his brother in Maryland for the first time in years: "He got very emotional."

Alvarenga's parents said he was known in his hometown as "Cirilo," a nickname that coincides with the first name of a man registered as missing with civil defense officials in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas. The civil defense office said a small fishing boat carrying two men, named Cirilo Vargas and Ezequiel Cordoba, dis-



In this Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 photo provided by the Marshall Islands Foreign Affairs Department, a man identifying himself as 37-year-old Jose Salvador Alvarenga sits on a couch in Majuro in the Marshall Islands, after he was rescued from being washed ashore on the tiny atoll of Ebon in the Pacific Ocean.

appeared during bad weather on Nov. 17, 2012, and no trace of them or the craft was found during an intense two-week search.

Alvarenga said his fellow fisherman, who he identified only with the first name of Ezequiel, died after about a month at sea and he tossed his body overboard. Alvarenga said he survived on raw fish, birds, bird blood and turtles before washing ashore on the remote Marshall Islands atoll of Ebon, 6,500 miles across the Pacific Ocean from the fishing hamlet of Costa Azul, Mexico, where he set out.

There was no immediate explanation of the discrepancy in dates given by Alvarenga and Mexican authorities or the survivor's different names. Alvarenga said he set sail on Dec. 21, 2012, but fisherman in Costa Azul said an overweight Central American man known as "La Chancha," or "the Pig," had been lost since November 2012. Alvarenga may have used multiple nicknames, and he has seemed fuzzy about details of

his voyage.

Jose Manuel Aragon, spokesman for the Chiapas state civil defense office, said two weeks of searches were fruitless and reflected the widespread incredulity at Alvarenga's tale.

"It was probably something that was planned beforehand, something we had no knowledge of," Aragon said. "Our only duty was to carry out search and rescue operations."

Villermino Rodriguez, a young fishing boat owner in Costa Azul known as "Willie," described Alvarenga as a heavy set, quiet man. Alvarenga has said he worked for Willie.

Rodriguez said the two men set out despite warnings that day about heavy rains and high winds. He, too, wondered about

the survival story.

"You can imagine a lot of things, but that is something he should explain," Rodriguez said. "There are things that don't match up. I knew him, but I have a lot of doubts."

Central America is a major transshipment route for U.S.-bound drugs, but there is no evidence traffickers would use such a small boat to try to make such a long journey.

Alvarenga did not appear badly sunburned, despite his account of spending such a long time adrift.

"It's hard for me to imagine someone surviving 13 months at sea," U.S. Ambassador Tom Armbruster said in Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands, after speaking with Alvarenga. "But it's also hard to imagine how someone might arrive on Ebon out of the blue. Certainly this guy has had an ordeal, and has been at sea for some time."

Armbruster said the soft-spoken man complained of joint pain Monday and had a limp, but could walk. He had long hair and a beard, and rather than appearing emaciated he looked puffy in places, including around his ankles, the ambassador said. Otherwise, he added, Alvarenga seemed in reasonable health.

Armbruster, who speaks Spanish, said Alvarenga told him he was working for Willie, catching sharks for 25 pesos

(\$1.90) a pound, when a storm blew his 23-foot (7-meter) fiberglass boat off course.

"He talked about scooping up little fish that swam alongside the boat and eating them raw," Armbruster said. "He also said he ate birds and drank birds' blood."

Other elements of the story supported Alvarenga's account. Photos from the Marshall Islands published by Britain's Telegraph newspaper showed the boat he purportedly arrived in. It bore the hand-lettered name of a Chiapas fishing cooperative, Camaroneros de la Costa, that Alvarenga said he worked for. The photos also showed an enormous plastic cooler that Alvarenga purportedly used to shelter himself from the sun and sea.

No one answered calls to a phone number listed for the cooperative in Chiapas.

Alvarenga's story mirrors the apparent ordeal of three Mexican fishermen rescued by a trawler near the Marshall Islands after nine months at sea in 2006.

Despite many doubters, fishermen Lucio Rendon, Salvador Ordonez and Jesus Vidana stuck to their story, saying they left Mexico's Pacific port of San Blas on Oct. 28, 2005, and they were rescued Aug. 9, 2006, by a Taiwanese fishing ship 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles) away.

The trio, who were also on a shark-fishing expedition in an open boat similar in size to Alvarenga's, said they survived by taking shelter from the sun under a blanket, eating raw fish and birds and drinking rain water and their urine.

## MIFICPA sets annual tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, invites the public to this year's tax seminar on Feb. 15, 2014, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm at the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort. This year's tax seminar will focus on tax updates for 2014, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements.

David J. Burger, director for Burger & Comer, PC Certified Public Accountants, will be the guest speaker. Registration starts at 7:30am. Registration fee for members is \$20 (includes \$5 membership renewal). Non-members and non-accountants are also wel-

come for the same fee, which includes refreshments and a certificate of attendance.

We encourage participants to turn in their tax questions ahead of time to facilitate the question and answer portion of the seminar. Feel free to contact any of the organizers below.

For reservation and more details, call or email Olive Aninon at 287-6587 (olive.mificpa@gmail.com); Noli Santos at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com); Irene Santiago at 286-1106 (irene\_saipan@yahoo.com); Eloisa Agustin at 287-9367 (eloi18@yahoo.com); or Anabelle Lubi

(anabelle\_ramos@yahoo.com).  
(MIFICPA)

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Attorney for Petitioner	
<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
GILDA E. ESCAMILLA-JALMAS ) FCD DI	
Petitioner. ) CIVIL	
versus ) ACTION	
JOSE JALMAS JR., ) NO. 13-0462	
Respondent )	
) SUMMONS	
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you. YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.	
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce. By order of the above Court:  Dated this 26th day of September 2013.  /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court	

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Family grief support meeting today

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Feb. 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 322-3425 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionate-friends.org. (PR)

#### Calling all 1964 high school graduates

An All Island 50th High School Reunion Banquet is scheduled for Friday, July 18, 2014, at the Hilton Resort and Spa. For information and banquet tickets, contact Nick Francisco at 734-0056 or

Connie Reyes at 727-0022. The Next planning committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 at 6:30pm at Nick Francisco's residence. (PR)

#### MINA to hold special general membership meeting

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will hold a special general membership meeting on Feb. 13, 2014, at 5:30pm at the MINA conference room, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 103. The purpose for the meeting is to discuss and vote on the recommended merger between the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Pacific Marine Resource Institute. Projected meeting time is 30 minutes. (MINA)

#### Free business training seminar

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will hold a free business training seminar on Saipan called "How to start a business in 2014." The workshop will be held on Feb. 7, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan. Online registration: PIS-BDCN.ECENTERDIRECT.COM or call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

#### Accountant

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Geniisys and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, February 21, 2014.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



# EVMF happy with growth of garage sale store

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founder Rose Smith is happy with how the humanitarian organization's garage sale store has grown over the years.

"Empty Vessel wishes to thank individuals, businesses, and organizations for their overwhelming support of our garage sale store in Gualo Rai. We are so touched by your generosity and we are happy to help out families looking for affordable items. Our garage sale store started with only two tables of donations but today it is a room full of donations. Thank you all for your generosity."

Smith said EVMF is turning donated items into good use. She said not only are they being bought by those who still have need for them but the money EVMF raises is used for its many community projects, not only in the CNMI but other countries as well.

"Low-income families can receive free or affordable items. We request that all donations are in good condition so that they are useful to someone else. Many families have benefited from your donations; therefore if anyone has clothes, shoes, utensils, and any items you want to donate, we will be happy to receive them. If you are leaving the island, consider donating your items instead of throwing them away. Someone's throw-away is someone's treasure."

Smith said that EVMF was able to send a couple of boxes of clothes and money to victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last year.

The EVMF founder also took the opportunity to thank AA Enterprises for allowing the humanitarian group to use the room at their building rent-free. She also thanked the following for their donations to the garage sale store: Bali Fashion, Whispering Palms School, Youth With a Mission, Faith Works Church, Church 360, Palauan Church, and other individuals.

"We appreciate everyone for supporting our other activities like the recent Saipan Next Top Chef. It was a success because, through the help of our supporters, we were able to help the Aging Center."

EVMF donated new lavatories, included four toilets and a urinal, to the Aging Center in December.

Other ways to help EVMF is by sponsoring a child in Kenya, the Philippines, or Bangladesh for only \$30 a month.

"This will provide education and basic needs for a street child or orphan. We also support education here on Saipan and we appreciate school sup-



Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation volunteers receive donations from Whispering Palms School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Church volunteers pack clothes donated for Typhoon Haiyan victims.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation receives donations from Pastor Ryan Montensen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

plies for them. Currently we are collecting school supplies for a school on Rota so please feel free to bring your school supplies donations to our garage sale store or at our booth at the Street Market."

EVMF also believes in empowering women because women are the ones that make sure that the family is always taken care of.

"Because of the generous donation from our supporters, 71 women in Kenya have received small loans for them to start small businesses. On Saipan we educate and empower women through monthly meetings. Guest speakers from the community come to educate women on different issues. Drs. Jeanolivia Grant and Esther Kanajorn have been of great help offering free screening and advice to women on health issues."

For more information on EVMF and its many projects or to donate, call 483-0162 or 235-2340. The group's garage sale store in Gualo Rai is located at the ABA Building across Bali Fashion and next to Monica's Furniture. *(Mark Rabago)*

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 6, 2006

### 'More NMI reservists bound for Iraq'

More U.S. Army reserve troops from the CNMI and Guam will be deployed to Iraq this summer, according to 9th U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command commander Brig. Gen. John Ma yesterday. Ma disclosed the U.S. Army's plan to send more troops in his remark during a ceremony welcoming the members of Echo Company at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Ma, in an interview with the Saipan Tribune, said their 657 area support group based in Hawaii has been preparing for another deployment to Iraq.

### Soldiers, civilians given awards

The 9th U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command yesterday gave awards to NMI soldiers who completed their one-year mission in Iraq. Some civilians were also recognized for their volunteer works in supporting the troops. CNMI Army Reserve commander Maj. Franklin R. Babauta who led the 143-man Echo Company, was handed the bronze medal award for his "excellent performance as commander of the company" during the ceremony held at Hyatt Regency Saipan's garden. Staff Sgt. Ignacio Palacios received the Purple Heart, a medal given to soldiers who were injured or wounded in the line of duty.

February 6, 2007

### 'Do away with the Saipan-da'

A senator has revived a call to replace "Saipan-da" as the mascot of the local tourism industry. Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, in a letter to the Marianas Visitors Authority, said it may be time to revisit how effective the mythological mascot is as a tool for promoting the islands as a tourist destination. The Saipan-da was developed for an advertising campaign created by the Tokyo-based advertising firm Dentsu 10 in 1997. The mascot resembles a panda bear with a rhinoceros horn; "sai" is the Japanese word for rhinoceros. Taken as a whole, the Japanese phrase "Saipan-da" is the less formal way of saying "Saipan desu," which means, "It is Saipan."

### NMC issues new book on island ecology

The Northern Marianas College has released a locally printed and published book called Island Ecology & Resource Management: Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands. According to NMC, a team of 16 authors, working in close collaboration with several CNMI and U.S. federal resource agencies, helped develop the book the past nine years. Contributing authors include Alan Davis, Peter Peshut, Scott Miller, Roger Church, Dr. Mac MacCarter, Michael Trianni, Scott Vogt, Katherine Miller, Jane Jackson, Dr. Aubrey Moore, Dr. Joaquin Tenorio, Dr. William Flood, Kaye Francis, John Jordan, Charles Schonder, and John Furey. Funds to develop and print the book, and contributions of both text and graphic materials, were donated from dozens of sources, each of whom is individually listed in the volume's extensive dedication and acknowledgement pages.

February 6, 2008

### Palms Resort gives exotic birds to zoo

The Palms Resort Saipan had donated an array of exotic birds to the Saipan Zoo yesterday. According to Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan, between \$18,000 and \$20,000 worth of exotic birds were donated to his business yesterday. "I'm really excited that they've decided to donate these birds to the zoo. I've written letters before to when it was once Hotel Nikko, even offering to buy some of them. I was happy when they told me that they are willing to donate them instead," Aldan said. Palms Resort Saipan general manager Ray Dela Cruz said that part of the reason Palms Resort decided to donate the birds is to establish a close working relationship with a locally owned zoo business.

### No plans yet for old prison

There are no plans yet on what to do with the old adult prison facility in Susupe once all the inmates and detainees are transferred to the new prison. Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio said that when everything is in order at the new correctional facility, they will bring the issue of the old facility to the attention of the governor. Tenorio said maybe the old facility will be returned back to the Division of Public Lands and have them decide what to do with it. Tenorio said another option is to come up with a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Public Safety if it wants it.



# Saipan municipal council announces trades scholarship

12<sup>th</sup> Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair RB Camacho, together with vice chair Antonio M. Tudela and councilman Diego Kaipat, announced yesterday that the council's long awaited scholarship program is now available to residents of Saipan and the Northern Islands.



Camacho

learn and to complete the core curriculum of his/her industry of choice in areas not limited to construction, automotive, home economics, culinary, or any other industry offered at NMTI.

The news comes on the heels of the anticipated re-opening of Saipan's lone Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors, & Elected Municipal Council Members, or AMIM.

## Pacific Islands University to host Bible Translation Day

GUAM—Pacific Islands University welcomes everyone to Bible Translation Day on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, at their campus on Kinney's Road in Pagat, Mangilao from 9am to 5pm. The event is co-sponsored by Isles of the Sea, a group that promotes and supports Bible translation projects in the languages of Micronesia, Polynesia, and New Caledonia.

Isles of the Sea has planned the event to overview the state of Bible translation globally and in Micronesia. The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book, yet there are "only" 513 languages that have all of the Bible translated, as opposed to 1,900-plus languages that do not even have a small portion of the Bible!

The event will consider questions such as: Why does Bible translation take so long? Is it worth the effort to translate the Bible into a language spoken only by a few thousand speakers? Why is Bible translation important for the church? How can this daunting task be accomplished?

Presentations, videos, and

activities will be hosted by members of Isles of the Sea, who are currently working on various translations projects in Micronesia. Speakers include Betty Amon, who is guiding a translation team in her native language, Nukuoro of Pohnpei; Cameron Fruit, who is advising five different Carolinian languages (Saipan Carolinian, Woleai and Satawal on Yap, and



Knapp

Sonsorol and Tobi on Palau), Ken Dixon, adviser of the Pingelap translation team on Pohnpei; and Peter Knapp, advisor of the Mwoakilloa translation team.

Both Dixon and Knapp also work as instructors at Pacific Islands University. At the university, they teach courses related to the minor in Bible translation. This minor consists of six undergraduate courses and is intended to enable students to work on Bible translation projects in their own language.

Lunch and snacks are provided. Donations to help cover expenses are welcome. For more information or to register, call the PIU front office at: 734-1812. (PIU)

## Wear red for 'Love on the Run'

Valentine's Day could not come any faster with "Love on the Run," a fun walk or run fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Scheduled this Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Micro Beach Pavilion with a show time at 5:30am, Love on the Run, which encourages racers to wear red, will begin at 6:15am with 5K to turn around at the 13 Fishermen's Monument and the 10K to turn around near the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill.

The top male and female finishers for the 5K and 10K, as well as top male and female age categories—19 years old and under, ages 20 to 40 and ages 40 and above—finishers will receive prizes.

"We wanted to do something

fun and healthy for the family before Valentine's Day, and Love on the Run provides a great way to exercise and raise funds for worthwhile community projects," said Saipan Rotary Club director Reina Camacho.

Entry is only \$10 per person and includes refreshments and raffle ticket for more prizes. Special edition t-shirts will also be raffled and on sale to further help the club raise funds for its community projects.

Forms are available at Rotary Club of Saipan's Facebook Page or you could call Camacho at 989-7346 or Ben Babauta at 483-2563.

All proceeds will go to the Saipan Rotary Club's community projects. (PR)

Camacho recalled how he and his colleagues in AMIM fought long and hard for this scholarship dedicated to residents interested in trades. "I recalled the initial discussion on this special scholarship some four years ago, when I was first elected to the 10th Council," said Camacho. "I am

happy though it has taken this long that it has finally come to fruition, and for two deserving students to be awarded at \$500 each based on AMIM qualifying criteria and guideline."

"I join my fellow colleagues in the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council in partnership with Northern Is-

lands Mayor Tobias Aldan and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores in welcoming this first and only scholarship dedicated to trades and high skill career workforce development over the municipality's continuing tradition of providing assistance for our residents in pursuit of after-high school

education, be it at the Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje campus or the lower base campus of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. This news comes a long way in finally addressing head on the local workforce trades needs of Saipan and the Northern Islands," he added. (PR)

## Yonsei Academy to hold piano concert Sunday

Yonsei Academy will be holding "The 6th Piano Concert with Music History" this Sunday, Feb. 9, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The concert starts at 5pm and is broken down into seven sections—The Baroque Period (1600-1750), The Classical Period (1750-1815), Popular Music and Hymns, The Special Stage, The Romantic Period (1815-1910), Nationalism and Modernity (1910-present), and Senior Stage.

Brian Youn will kick things off with *Pomp and Circum-*

*stance March No. 1* by Sir Edward Elgar.

Alex Park will play *Pachelbel's Canon* by Johann Pachelbel under The Baroque Period, while James Dewitt will perform Ferdinand Beyer's *Beyer No. 27* for The Classical Period.

Ayung Lee will tickle the ivories with her version of *Ten Little Indians* under Popular Music and Hymns, while the Manta Band Trombone Ensemble will entertain everyone in attendance with *Stars and Stripes Forever* for

The Special Stage.

The Romantic Period will have Ziin Noh playing Franz Liszt's *La Campanella*, while Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* will be interpreted by Kevin Rhee under The Nationalism and Modernity.

The lone number under Senior Stage will have Lica Ishida playing her version of *La Campanella*.

Yonsei Academy is a school of piano, violin, and cello. Its teacher, Young Mi Han, graduated from Gyeon-

sang National University in Korea with a bachelor's degree in music education. Prior to coming to Saipan, she taught music in high school in Korea for 13 years.

The music school has taken part in several off-island music competitions, including Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, Young Artist Competition in Guam, and the CNMI Got Talent.

Tickets for "The 6th Piano Concert with Music History" cost \$5 per person. (Mark Rabago)

## UOG, GHD promote engineering in schools during E-Week

TAMUNING, Guam—The University of Guam Endowment Foundation, GHD Inc., the Society of American Military Engineers Guam Post and other engineers from the private sector and government will be visiting Guam middle, junior and senior high school classrooms during National Engineers Week, or E-Week, on Feb. 16-22, 2014.

Led by the National Society of Professional Engineers, E-Week is part of the 14th annual Discover "E" campaign. During E-Week, over 40,000 engineers throughout the U.S. will reach more than five million students and teachers. Their goal is to help bring practical applications of math, science, and technology to the classroom and increase student in-

terest in those subjects.

GHD, SAME Guam Post, and UOG will be visiting schools from Feb. 17 to 21, 2014. The visits will include information on the different types of engineering, what it takes to get an engineering degree, and introduce the UOG School of Engineering. In addition, GHD, SAME Guam Post and UOG are sponsoring a bridge-building competition

for any private and public high school student teams that may be interested which will be held at UOG Anthony Leon Guerrero Building on March 1, 2014, from 9am to 11am.

For more information about this event or to volunteer, contact Mark Mendiola at UOG Endowment Foundation at 735-2955 or Lani Jamison with GHD at 472-6792. (UOG)



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jacoby Jeremiah A. Fejeran, who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 6! Your thoughts, actions and attitude at the age of 18 become the foundation on which you will build the rest of your life. May you build a strong foundation for a bright future. Happy 18th birthday. We love you! From Mom, Dad, Jayvehn, Jryden.



Happy 2nd birthday to our very own Superman, Jude "Juder Patooter" Rayphand! We love you! Greetings come from your family.



Happy 4th birthday to Anton Sison, who is celebrating his special day today! Greetings come from your loved ones.



To the most amazing mom, Romana Maratita, who continues to enrich our lives with her love, guidance and support. Words are not enough to express the gratitude that you deserve for all that you have done for us throughout the years. Happy birthday Mom! May the Lord continue to bless you today and always! We love you so much! With love always, Dad and the girls.



Happy 1st birthday to Davizin Carmen Zareena Camacho Nekaifes! May your birthday and every day be filled with the warmth of sunshine, happiness of smiles, sounds of laughter, and the love from your family. We love you so much. Greetings come from Mommy, Grandma, brothers and sisters.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!** Congratulations to Joe and Joan Kani, of Tanapag, for celebrating 30 years of marriage on Feb. 4! Grandma and Grandpa, may you bless us with many more years to come! From your grandsons in Oregon, Brandon and Byron Kani Magofna.



Happy 5th birthday to Alyvia Borja Ada, who is celebrating her special day today! May God continue to guide you throughout the years! We love you always, from Mommy, Daddy, and the rest of the family



**COUNSELORS' WEEK** Happy Counselors Week to our very own Chris "Charisma" Cabrera! Greetings come from your SVS family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## Putting your charity dollars where they matter most

By ERIC FRIEDMAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It seems to happen at a disturbingly frequent rate. A massive typhoon, hurricane, earthquake, tsunami or other horrible catastrophe occurs. The media show heart-wrenching images of disaster beyond anything most people have seen or could even begin to imagine.

People want to help; it is human nature to want to help. And many aid agencies offer just that opportunity as they fundraise for relief efforts. But if we give to them, does it actually make a difference?

This isn't about deceitful and fraudulent charities. Scams are easy to avoid with a modest amount of due diligence. I'm talking about the legitimate charities trying to do good. Do they actually improve conditions at the disaster sites?

The answer is yes, but disaster relief is notably less effective than many other forms of aid. The issue is described well in a report from the Disease Control Priorities project, which ranks different forms of aid by how effective they are at helping people: "The emotional and sensationalized climate of disaster response has prevented the adoption of a cost-effectiveness approach in decision making. Emergency health interventions like temporary shelters and field hospitals are indisputably more costly and less effective than time-tested health activities."

The type of "time-tested health activities" the report refers to are those that help the 18,000 children around the world who die every day from preventable causes such as malaria, tuberculosis and unsafe drinking water. This death toll is equivalent to three Typhoon Haiyans every day or a Haitian earthquake every two weeks, though natural disasters get far more media coverage.

But the "every day" deaths are different: We have the knowledge and technology to prevent them. In fact, they were nearly eradicated in the United States before most of us were born. The bottleneck to preventing these deaths is as simple as the funding for things such as mosquito nets, vaccines and clean water.

The Disease Control Priorities report goes on to provide more rationale about its conclusions: "Improvisation and rush inevitably come with a high price. The preferential use of expatriate health professionals; the emergency procurement and airlifting of food, water and supplies that often are available locally or that remain in storage for long periods of time; and the tendency to adopt dramatic measures contribute to making disaster relief one of the least cost-effective health activities."

How should we think about disaster relief efforts that do help those in need but aren't "cost effective"? Does cost-effectiveness matter when lives are at stake? One can certainly say that charitable giving to disaster relief efforts should be encouraged because it helps people. This perspective is clearly reasonable if the choice is between giving to disaster relief and not giving to any charity.

But the issue isn't that simplistic. I have a limited budget for charitable giving. I'm not wealthy enough to fund the needs of victims of disasters as well as traditional health causes. Neither is Bill Gates. Donors face choices about how to allocate their giving. Though it is offensive to many people to pick between those who suffer from one horrible thing and those who suffer from a different horrible thing, the need to prioritize is legitimate.

For charities working in global health and development—like those trying to reduce the 18,000 preventable deaths daily—the lack of money is often the most critical barrier to furthering their missions. In contrast, well-publicized disasters can inspire people to donate billions; the biggest obstacles for charities working in disaster relief are often the lack of information and the lack of political will.

See PUTTING on Next Page



## Sochi(t) to me

I remember the Jamaican bobsledders in the movie *Cool Runnings* of 1993. I was in Jamaica in '79 so I can put the incongruity of the sport in context. The only frozen thing in Kingston, or up the Blue Mountains, is the ice that cools the beer. I lived in the prairies of Saskatchewan earlier so I have a feel for the Canadian cold. The four-person bobsledders in the movie actually competed in Calgary. The utterly ridiculous premise of the movie plot is easily dismissed as the product of overly adventurous imagination, save that the movie was based on actual facts.

Now, were one to imagine that with the increasing number of NMI immigrants to Northern Nevada, Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and the Rockies, one of our Chamorro kids puts on skis and comes down the slopes of Mt. Rainier with flair, liking the experience so much that s/he starts practicing to do it again, this time in competition with others. That, or start it somewhere in the waters around the Commonwealth where water skis are now increasingly getting popular, so, to get used to the body equilibrium and balancing act on skis is not far away from what is already accessible on island.

Is this farfetched? Well, at the end of this week until the 23rd of February, the world's press will Sochi(t) to you! It is called the Winter Olympics, which is a quadrennial happening in a place around the world that can guarantee ice surface indoors, and snow surface outdoors. This year, it is in the Olympic Park constructed in the Imertisky Valley on the coast of the Black Sea, with Fisht Olympic Stadium and the indoor venues for the Games within walking distance. The opening and closing ceremonies are scheduled at the Park.

The snow-covered open grounds will be at Krasnaya Polyana on the western flank of the Caucasus, and instead of me describing the place for you, Google a map of Sochi and you will find names and pictures of locations you will most likely hear on radio, see on TV, or read about in the papers.

For the geography-challenged, look up Turkey (that's left of Iraq and right of Greece) in a map. If you find it, the body of water north of it is the Black Sea. Now you are in the neighborhood. If you put your finger in the middle of the Black Sea, your left should have words like Romania and Bulgaria. Straight up north is Crimea of the Ukraine and south is Turkey. Still in the middle of the Black Sea, look to your right and the city of Sochi of Russia sits just north of Georgia, recognizable by the lateral spread of the Caucasus. Sochi sits along the Black Sea 4 km from the border of Georgia on the western end of the Caucasus Range.

In case you are not familiar with Winter Olympics events, think skating and skiing. On ice indoors, it's skating (figure and speed), and if you are chasing a black puck, it is hockey; if you are sliding a

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



stone on the ice to a target with four concentric circles, that's curling (not your hair, dear; leave the hot irons alone).

On snow outdoors, it's skiing: the cross-country, freestyle, jumping, and downhill (Alpine). Biathlon in winter Olympics is cross-country and rifle shooting. Nordic is ski jumping and cross-country. Snowboarding is down slope on white snow while standing on a board attach to the rider's feet. Skeleton is sled-riding down a slope face down, and Luge is sled-riding down a slope face up, or in a supine position. Bobsleigh or bobsled is four- or two-person *Cool Runnings*.

Now, to Sochi, the city in Krasnodar Krai of Russia. In the shadows of the Caucasus, mountain altar of whitey's god (don't mean that disparagingly as they were actually called "white gods") of Aia, the traffic between ancient Greece and Caucasus written up in Homer's *Illiad* and the *Odyssey*, we are in divinely appointed and anointed environment. Now, for its casinos, Sochi is known as the high end Riviera of Russia. The western penchant for the gods of Olympus should trigger healthy curiosity of its spring wells. Sochi a few km to Georgia's (Abkazia in the western flank of Caucasia) border can provide that.

More down to earth, Vladimir Putin, the ex-KGB tough guy who likes to show an image of physical fitness, pegged his reputation on Sochi's hosting of the Winter Olympics. Putin to the U.S. is the good guy that got Assad of Syria to dismantle his chemical weapons of mass destruction, and the bad guy who provided asylum for Snowden of the NSA spying scandal. He was recently photographed cuddling a cub Persian leopard, Sochi's chosen mascot, which constituted to the Western press a view of Putin's softer nature. Whoa! Cuddling a leopard a gentle virtue?

Like all Olympic efforts (pun intended), construction always go above budget, six times in Sochi's case, which many in Russia think should have gone into social programs, though they are not able to say so as loudly as Sao Paulo is doing with regards to their Olympic efforts for their FIFA and summer Olympics. But Putin will not be denied his project, and he shall be excused warmly if this next three weeks, while NMI's young balances on their skates and skis, he manages to Sochi(t) to the world!



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

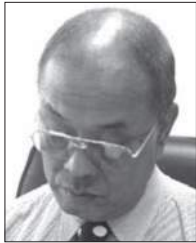
Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Manunog chinatsaga

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



**K**ada unu gai nina'na' gi un' finapos ni hita sola mismu tumuñgu'. Apmam ta fuñot ennau na asunto gi halom korasonta sa' ilelegta na ti debi u guaha otu tumuñgu'. Buenu!

Lau gi oran triniteta mafattu tatte ennau na asunto oppan gi hinassota. Sige ta espiha manera para ta suhon gi un' banda lau sige ha' tatte.

Ahe' ti para bai' imbelekeruye hau asuntomu. Lau atan haye mohon gi un' aingoghu na atuñgo'mu 'nai siña un' lipa hau. Este na chalan solu 'nai siña unna' lañahlalañ siñientemu dimas de un' gugu'ot ha' mafiot ennau na sentimentu.

Mauleg un' lipa hau ginen ennau na chinatsaga. Mas ñahlalañ hinassomu ya sinede hau kalamten dibuenamente felis gi kareramu. Ti bale para un' gu'ot kulan mohon dibi. Lagnos ennau na malumot ginen korasonmu. Un' mirese lokue pas gi ha' animu piot ya gai obligasion hau esta kumu nanan familia.

### Usun palabra

Guaha siha palabra sessu hu huñgog lache usun niha. Ahe' ti kume-

ke fama' professot karisuyu' gi finu' Chamorro. Lau pot para ta abiba i dinanche na usun palabra gi famaguonta.

Pot ihemplo: Un' kometsiu pot materiati ni mabebende gi un' bisis ilegña, "I na bunitun gimah...guaha gi...ya gof buratu". Ilegu na ha kekesañgan "guma" yan "baratu". Pot fabot rikonose yan i tumuñgu' i liñguahe antes de in' fatta hau publikamente.

Manu i propiu na palabra para i tautau: patas pat addeñg? Gi palao'an: managu pat mandeskatga; konbetsasion: kumu pat punu; yan kumeke ilegmu pat kumulelegmu?

### Disposision Tanu' Publiku

I usun, disposision yan manehanten tanu' publiku solu i DPL manae' nu ennau na atoridat ni pettinente na probision konstitusion iya Marianas. Iya hululu' na obligasion pot inestablesen homestead.

Guaha mas areglu na biahe gi ma-establesen homestead. Debi u saunau 'nos kuantus areglu deste ma-estudian otda', mamidi, maplanehan enteru lugat, maputa', mapegaye chalan, hanom, sewer yan kandet. Estague' siha na fasilidat dañkulu na fondu ha nesessita.

I lehislatura libre sumañgan haf' malago' na pot homestead. Lau atoridat este na responsabilidadat gaige gi DPL. Muñga mapega kalulot miyu halom gi tarun kandi sa' esta nahoñg malumot.

Taya' linachiña mafafama programan homestead para iya Pagan. Lau debi u tutuhongue' ennau na diniseha gi hechuran planu, kon-todu moneda para i programa.

Debi u sasaunau lokue' fondu para mafahan un' batku para mamueban tautau 'an sienkasu pagpag unu gi halom 'nos kuantos botkan gi sanlichen na patte giya Pagan. U guaha lokue' fondu para fasilidat kandet, hanom, chalan, dispensary, eskuela, puettu parehu ha' aire yan batku.

Pa'gu ayu i guaha fumafama apas royalty pot casino giya Tinian, finenina debi umakomprende na sumasaunau tanu' publiku 'nai gaige i Tinian Dynasty. I konstitusion klaru na disposision hana'

guaha pot fondu ginen atkilon tanu' publiku. Ta'lon tumaitai i pettinente probision pot no infan matompu' gi hafa in' fafama parehu ha' kuestion 'sino infotmasion.

### Estudianen NMC

Pot uttimu: 90 pot sientu na estudiante ti fumatinas i entrance exam gi NMC. Kumeke ilegña na gi halom 1,095 ennau i 995 ti pumasa i tes. Mampos este dañkulu na numeru. Ha afuetsas i debi u guaha in-asoda' todus pettinente na ahensia para uma-ina este na chinatsaga.

Mauleg ta ketuñgu' ginen PSS yan NMC ginen manu mage na eskuela i memegaiña gi ti fumatinas i entrance exam. Debi 'an magradua i patgon listu chumogue leksion kolehu. Na atrasau i para umasede mamueba mona 'nai ti ha pasa leksioña siha.

Debi u guaha fitme na ditetmetnasion na umatatiye areglon estudiu 'sino mafanana'an common core standard. Estague' preparasion esta i uttimon linalaña ennau na estudiante.

■■■

Lamegai man-sustansiau na asunto siha fumafana' hit na biahe. Mampos ha estototba hinassoghu i machalapon tano' ta piot gi bandan areglu siha.

Pot ihemplo: I ekonomia i primera problema guine. Tat familia ti nina' abarambabau diariu. Gi mismu tiempu taya' oppan na finacho'chu' i man-ma-elihe gi inakuden probleman publiku ni marepresenta gi hegssu' I Deni'.

U fattu didog este na pinadese siha gi todus familia. I binibun i tautau siempre u oppan na biahe. Nahoñg na kastigon no siankassu na applacha' fache' mimilalag ginen hilu'. Dalai 'ste na che'chu' kabron yan muron!

Hu komprende haf' na taiguine ta padedese na tiempu. Hita mediu muna' lamen maisa hit gi kualidat representante ni ta pepega gi hegssu' lusinfetnos. Gi mismu sakudida hita ta'lu siña tumulaika finatson chatdisisonta. Puede u guaha mas inadade na biahe. Si Yuus Maase'!

## The Sochi Olympics and the facade of Russian progress

**I**n the mid-19th century, a Frenchman described the reconstruction of St. Petersburg's monumental Winter Palace after a fire. To meet the czar's deadline during a bitterly cold winter, the "unprecedented efforts" included heating the structure's interior to almost 90 degrees. Of the thousands of laborers who braved the extremes of temperature, "a considerable number died each day," wrote the Marquis de Custine, "but, as the victims were replaced by other champions who filled their places, to perish in their turn in this inglorious gap, the losses were not apparent."

Moderation has never been Russia's strong suit—not in the creation of its imperial capital centuries ago and not today, as it unveils the Winter Olympic Games at the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Winning the right to host the event "wasn't just a recognition of Russia's sporting achievements," President Vladimir Putin pronounced when the decision was made in 2007, "but a judgment of our country."

### PUTTING

From Page 10

ter relief are logistical, not financial. Roads and other infrastructure are often destroyed, so charities can't get supplies to those in need, even with your donations. This is exactly the type of situation that happened after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, as the rubble hadn't been cleared even a year later.

What should people do when donating? Look for organizations that are rated highly by charity evaluators that focus on effectiveness, such as GiveWell, Giving What We Can or the Life You Can Save (these are much better than some larger charity rating agencies that only emphasize overhead costs). Alternatively, consider making an unrestricted gift to charities that do both disaster relief and development, such as Oxfam and UNICEF, and let them decide where it is needed most.

This type of approach may not feel as emotionally satisfying because it is less connected to those you see in the media suffering from disasters, but it isn't callous or oblivious. It requires putting the needs of others ahead of your own emotional fulfillment.

The evidence is clear that there are charitable programs that are more effective than disaster relief, and isn't helping others the purpose of charitable giving?

*Eric Friedman is the author of Reinventing Philanthropy: A Framework for More Effective Giving. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

And yet, rather than heralding a shining new post-Soviet resurgence, the Olympics will come closer to a familiar pattern in Russian history: the latest in a series of over-the-top, outrageously expensive projects undertaken at heavy cost to the populace in a questionable attempt to leapfrog Western countries.

Make no mistake about it, these Russian Games are Putin's personal project to shore up power. They will be the most expensive Olympics ever, at more than \$50 billion, almost four times the amount proposed in 2007.

The questionable decision to stage the winter events in a subtropical city created some of the unnecessarily expensive obstacles, but perhaps not as many as another typically Russian development: a staggering amount of corruption.

Several of the companies chosen to remake Sochi for the Olympics are owned or co-owned by Arkady Rotenberg, a childhood friend of Putin. News reports and Russian watchdogs say Rotenberg's Sochi contracts alone are worth more than \$7 billion, which rivals the entire cost for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. The owner of another firm charged with building the ski jump was also a vice president of the Russian Olympic Committee. The company's work was so shoddy, it had to be redone several times as its cost ballooned. Finally, Putin himself fired the committee official.

Catching up to the West is an old game in Russia, which began emerging as an independent power in the 15th century. Searching for an imperial style that would befit their growing status, the princes of Muscovy—the medieval principality that eventually developed into modern Russia—first looked to the remnants of the Mongol Empire that had dominated them for centuries. Czar and boyars, a rough equivalent of European nobles, dressed in Turkic robes and called themselves "white khans."

But as the eminent Russia historian Edward L. Keenan has argued, it didn't take long for Muscovites to realize that real power lay not in the East but the West. Failing to impress the crowned heads of Europe, they abandoned the Turkic terms and styles. Instead, Czar Ivan III began copying European princes, sending to Italy for architects to rebuild the wooden Kremlin. The brick walls that stand today date from that period, and the main entrance, the Spassky Gate, still bears a Latin inscription praising the Italian Renaissance architect Petrus Antonius Solarius for its design.

Russians have been importing Western forms and ideas ever since. Typically forced on the people by powerful leaders in great spurts, however, the adoption of those new influences mostly resulted in hybrid forms that turned out to be more Russian than Western—from the laws of Catherine the Great, which omitted many elements of Enlightenment thought that she claimed they reflected, to

By **GREGORY FEIFER**

Los Angeles Times

*Gregory Feifer, a former Moscow correspondent for National Public Radio, is the author of Russians: The People Behind the Power, which will be published in February. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*



Soviet communism, whose tenets and practices would surely have dumbfounded Marx.

"Westernization" has long played a role in Russia's political culture. New institutions and discourse obscured and ultimately helped maintain Russia's centuries-old way of doing things: important decisions made by a handful of the powerful behind closed Kremlin doors.

Such a political culture requires a facility for bluffing. It remains central under Putin, who routinely misleads his own people, and the West, about his intentions. The best example of his misdirection was the sham four-year presidency of his protege and puppet, now-Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, the supposedly reforming liberal.

But if obfuscation has helped Russian leaders maintain power, the yawning gap between their publicly stated intentions and the depressing reality of life in a corrupt, authoritarian country has helped breed envy and resentment of the perennially more prosperous and efficient West, despite claims of Russian exceptionalism.

Putin, who regularly denounces the United States, perfectly fits the mold, having proclaimed Russian civilization to be unique and separate from the West.

Few have bought his recent attempts to soften his image by freeing the former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, members of the band Pussy Riot and other political prisoners. If, as Putin claims, the Sochi Games are a judgment of Russia, they have brought his repression into sharper focus thanks to protests over the country's new anti-gay law and concerns about attacks by militants from the neighboring North Caucasus, where the oppressive rule of corrupt Kremlin loyalists has spread violence across the region.






The Sochi Games are more than just a facade for current authoritarian tendencies. Russia's latest grand undertaking to advance its place in the world illustrates the opposite: that the government is still wedded to the centuries-old tradition of puffery and masquerade that instead demonstrates just how far the country lags behind the West.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

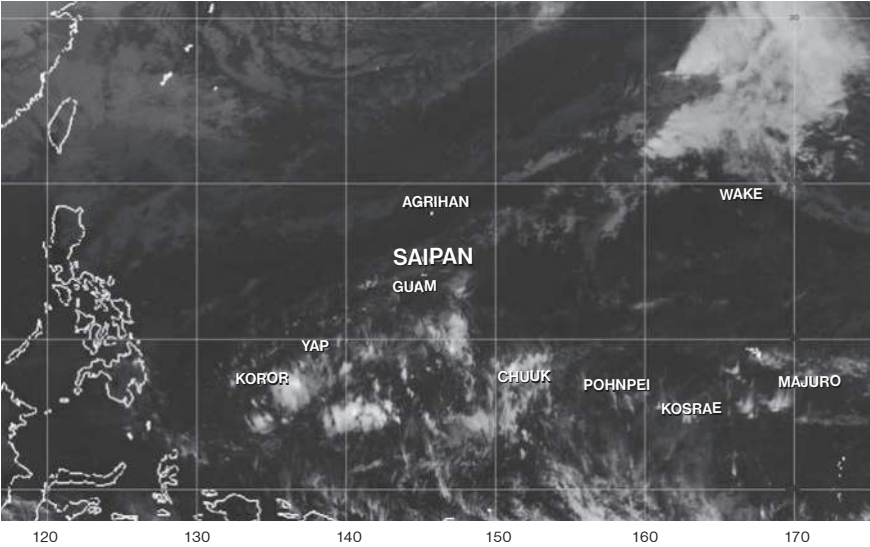
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲69 ▼65
Beijing	Snow	▲40 ▼24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲78 ▼68
London	Rain	▲49 ▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲94 ▼63
Miami	Showers	▲82 ▼70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲30 ▼18
Osaka	Cloudy	▲47 ▼37
Paris	Showers	▲52 ▼48
Pusan	Windy	▲52 ▼41
Rome	Rain	▲58 ▼45
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲33 ▼15
San Francisco	Showers	▲55 ▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲42 ▼31
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼24

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
12:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from east of Koror Palau to southern Yap state within 150 miles of a line from 7N135E to 4N146E. A cold front curves southwestward from 25N162E to 22N156E then continues as a shear line to 8N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found ahead of the front between Wake Island and Minami Torishima within 100 miles of a line from 21N156E to 25N164E. Scattered showers are found within 90 miles of a line from 7N132E to 18N151E including the Marianas waters. An old shear line is creating scattered showers just north of Majuro and Pohnpei and over Kwajalein within 120 miles of a line from 10N180 to 10N170E to 7N155E. A trade-wind trough stretches from a weak circulation near 3N140E to 17N149E. Converging winds east of the trough are producing scattered showers just east of the Marianas and near Chuuk between 3N and 12N from 146E to 153E. Low-level converging winds are causing scattered showers east of Wake Island within 60 miles of a line from 22N167E to 17N176E to 18N180 and beyond.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:23 AM
Friday	12:09 PM 12:20 AM
Saturday	12:55 PM 1:11 AM
Sunday	1:43 PM 2:02 AM
Monday	2:31 PM 2:51 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)</b> D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	<b>TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN</b> D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b> D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b> D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
<b>SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)</b> D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	<b>WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN</b> D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
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# Business

## Analysts say health care law means fewer on job

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several million American workers will cut back their hours on the job or leave the nation's workforce entirely because of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, congressional analysts said Tuesday, adding fresh fuel to the political fight over "Obamacare."

The workforce changes would mean nationwide losses equal to 2.3 million full-time jobs by 2021, in large part because people would opt to keep their income low to stay eligible for federal health care subsidies or Medicaid, the Congressional Budget Office said. It had estimated previously that the law would lead to 800,000 fewer jobs by that year.

Republican lawmakers seized on the report as major new evidence of what they consider the failures of Obama's overhaul, the huge change in U.S. health coverage that they're trying to overturn and planning to use as a main argument against Democrats in November's midterm elections.

It's the latest indication that "the president's health care law is destroying full-time jobs," said Republican Rep. John Kline of Minnesota, chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. "This fatally flawed health care scheme is wreaking havoc on working families nationwide," he said.

But the White House said



In this March 23, 2010, file photo, President Barack Obama reaches for a pen to sign the health care bill in the East Room of the White House in Washington. AP

the possible reduction would be due to voluntary steps by workers rather than businesses cutting jobs—people having the freedom to retire early or spend more time as stay-at-home parents because they no longer had to depend only on their employers for health insurance.

The law means people "will be empowered to make choices about their own lives and livelihoods," said White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.

CBO Director Douglas El-

mendorf said the top reasons people would reduce work would be to qualify for subsidized coverage and an expanded Medicaid program but that lower wages—because of penalties on employers who don't provide coverage and looming taxes on generous health care plans—would also be a factor.

The agency also reduced its estimate of the number of uninsured people who will get coverage through the health care law. The budget experts now say 1 million

more people will be uninsured this year than had been expected, partly because of the website problems that prevented people from signing up last fall.

However, it wasn't all bad news for the Obama administration. The CBO's wide-ranging report predicted that the federal budget deficit will fall to \$514 billion this year, down from last year's \$680 billion and the lowest by far since Obama took office five years ago.

The new estimates also say

that the health care law will, in the short run, benefit the economy by boosting demand for goods and services because the lower-income people it helps will have more purchasing power. The report noted that the 2014 premiums that people pay for exchange coverage are coming in about 15 percent lower than projected, and the health care law, on balance, still is expected to reduce the federal deficit.

However, the budget experts see the long-term federal deficit picture worsening by about \$100 billion a year through the end of the decade because of slower growth in the economy than they had previously predicted.

As for health care signups, the website woes have largely been cleared up, but the non-partisan congressional analysts estimated that about 1 million fewer people will enroll through the new insurance exchanges than had been expected this year, for a total of 6 million.

Enrollment is predicted to pick up, topping 20 million in 2016. The exchanges, or online marketplaces, offer subsidized private coverage and cater mainly to middle-class people who don't have health care on the job.

The Congressional Budget Office also revised its Medicaid enrollment projection downward by about 1 million, for a new total of 8 million signups in

2014. About half the states have accepted the health law's Medicaid expansion.

What about those people whose decisions about work might be affected by the new law?

Lower-wage workers are more likely to reduce their hours or quit their jobs because of Obamacare incentives, the report said.

Although some employers will choose not to hire additional workers, or will reduce hours, the budget office said that does not appear to be the main factor.

"The estimated reduction stems almost entirely from a net decline in the amount of labor that workers choose to supply, rather than from a net drop in businesses' demand for labor," the report said.

The health care analysis is layered with complexity. The job losses are measured in "full-time-equivalent workers," which means more people are actually affected than, say, the 2 million full-time-equivalent jobs lost in 2017. It could take several part-time workers or people deciding to reduce their hours to produce the wage loss of one full-time equivalent.

The report also contains an important caveat, that the estimate of job losses is "subject to substantial uncertainty" and could be larger or smaller than predicted. There now are more than 130 million jobs in the economy.

## Strong earnings fail to impress jittery market

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors to Corporate America: Meh.

U.S. companies are reporting strong profits for the fourth quarter of last year. But most are failing to impress investors who were hoping for even better numbers or rosier outlooks, and are too worried about larger global macroeconomic forces to do much buying.

"Earnings season is going quite well," says Christine Short, a senior manager at the research firm S&P Capital IQ. "But what we're seeing in earnings season is not what we are seeing in the market."

With results in from more than half of the companies in the S&P 500 index, fourth-quarter earnings are up a respectable 7.4 percent, making it the best quarter of last year, according to S&P Capital IQ. Of the 277 companies that have reported results, 185 companies have beaten earnings expectations and 59 have fallen short, a better ratio than average. Company revenues have also come in

better than in the past relative to expectations.

It's just not enough for investors. The S&P 500 regained some ground Tuesday, but that followed a slide of 2.3 percent Monday. It is down 4.5 percent since earnings season kicked off on January 9.

Stocks rose almost unchecked in 2013, posting their highest gains since 1997. Because stock prices rose so high, that has investors on alert for any bad news. The slowdown of stimulus from the Federal Reserve, currency problems in emerging markets such as Argentina and Turkey and slowing growth in China have served to ratchet up the worry.

Stocks fell Monday after a manufacturing survey showed weaker factory activity growth than expected and the Commerce Department reported that construction spending rose only modestly in December, slowing from more robust gains a month earlier.

"The market has the jitters," says Quincy Krosby, market strat-

egist at Prudential Financial.

So, when companies share financial news that is less than terrific—revenue or earnings that are a little weak, or outlooks that are cautious or even slightly negative—shares get hammered.

Randy Frederick, an investment strategist at Charles Schwab, points out that the results for the last quarter so far are strikingly similar to those posted over the previous few quarters, but stocks are going down instead of up.

"The quarter is the same, but the market reaction to it is different this time," he says.

Amazon posted higher revenue and profit for the fourth quarter after the market closed on Thursday, but it failed to meet analysts' expectations. It predicted revenue of \$18.2 billion to \$19.9 billion for the first quarter—not strong enough for analysts who all had forecast \$19 billion or higher, according to FactSet. Shares are down 14 percent since Friday morning.

## Microsoft CEO to focus on mobile, cloud technology

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As longtime Microsoft insider Satya Nadella takes the company's helm, he is declaring a new focus on a "mobile-first, cloud-first world." So far, he only has the latter half of the formula figured out.

Microsoft and its new CEO are trying to catch rivals such as Apple, Google and Amazon, which are each building their own thriving ecosystems for mobile devices. At the same time, the company wants to expand its burgeoning business as a provider of software and services over the Internet.

Nadella, head of Microsoft's cloud computing business, was named Tuesday to be Steve Ballmer's immediate replacement. He is only the third chief executive in Microsoft's 38-year history.

The 22-year Microsoft veteran has enlisted the help of company founder and first CEO Bill Gates, who is leaving his role as chairman to serve a more hands-on role as an adviser at

Nadella's request. Gates will spend a third of his time working on products and technology.

Nadella, 46, led the company's small but growing cloud computing unit, in which customers pay Microsoft to house data and run applications on distant servers connected to the Internet. Those services are a departure from Microsoft's traditional business of making software for installation directly onto personal computers.

In addition to growing that business, one of Nadella's first tasks as CEO will be to complete Microsoft Inc.'s \$7.3 billion purchase of Nokia's phone business and patent rights—part of a plan to boost Windows Phone software in a market dominated by iPhones and Android devices.



Nadella

"Going forward, it's a mobile-first, cloud-first world," Nadella said Tuesday in a video accompanying the announcement.

He said he would capitalize on Microsoft's experience making the industry's leading productivity software package, Office.

"We need to be able to pick the unique contribution that we want to make," he said. "That's where our heritage of having been the productivity company ... is what we want to get focused on."

Gates will remain on the company's board. The new chairman will be board member John Thompson, who led the search for a new CEO after Ballmer said in August that he planned to step down.

Thompson said Nadella was the board's "first and unanimous choice."

Nadella has "the right background to lead the company in this era," Gates said in a video message. "There's a challenge in mobile computing. There's an opportunity in the cloud."

### STOCK PORTFOLIO



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DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,445.24	1,755.20	4,031.52
+72.44	+13.31	+34.56
+0.47%	+0.76%	+0.87%

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	British Pound	0.6126	Indonesian Rupiah	12044.9000	South Korean Won	1077.8287
	Canadian Dollar	1.1071	Japanese Yen	101.2729	Swiss Franc	0.9045
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# Nation

## Long winter brings salt shortage, steeper prices

**CHICAGO (AP)**—As piles of snow grow taller during this seemingly endless winter, the mounds of salt for spreading on the nation's icy, slushy roads are shrinking, forcing communities to ration supplies or try exotic

new ice-melting substances.

Cities have already gone through most of their salt well ahead of the time they traditionally really need it—when the coldest part of winter gives way to temperatures just warm

enough to turn snow into freezing rain and sleet and roads into ribbons of ice.

"If we don't get the salt, at some point people are going to be sliding all over the place like what you saw in Atlanta," said

Julius Hansen, public works director in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn, citing last week's television images of thousands of motorists getting stranded on ice-covered roads in the South.

So far this year, Glen Ellyn's snow-removal crews have responded to 31 storms.

"In an average winter, we have 20," Hansen said.

A community the size of Glen Ellyn, population 27,000, might use 50 to 100 tons per storm. A bigger community such as Waukesha, Wis., which has about 70,000 residents, could use 300 tons or more. The same storm in Chicago would call for more than 13,000 tons.

Demand is so high that salt gets more expensive every day. Communities are trying to decide what to do. They could buy a little more salt now, when it costs twice or three times more than earlier in the season, and hope it doesn't snow too much more. Or they could wait until it does snow more and risk paying even higher prices.

In some areas, there has been so much snow that cities have had to find creative ways to stretch their supplies: spreading salt only on intersections and major roads and mixing it

with sand. In Indiana's Morgan County, there is so little salt left that what is on hand will be mixed with sand and used only on the hills.

"We can only do what we can do," county engineer Larry Smith said.

In Pennsylvania's Butler County, they're trying out a product called Beet Heet, made of processed sugar beet molasses, for anti-icing purposes.

Milwaukee road crews are experimenting with liquid cheese brine, mixing it in with rock salt before it goes on the road to make the salt wetter "so it will stick in place instead of bouncing away," said Sandy Rusch Walton, a spokeswoman with Milwaukee's Public Works Department.

Elsewhere, communities have cut back.

"As the season goes along, we become stingier," said Fred Abadi, the public works director in Waukesha.

Motorists have noticed.

When Emira Palacios got into her car in Wichita, Kan., Tuesday, as another storm rolled in, "none of the streets had salt," she said. "It is a little scary."

Wichita has received only about 800 tons of the 3,000 tons

of salt it ordered. So salt is being mixed with sand and road crews are given just enough of the mixture to cover emergency routes. When the salt runs out, road crews will use sand alone.

But sand has its limitations and can even create problems.

"Sand gives you some traction to get started, to stop, but it doesn't do any melting," said Joseph T. Pajor, deputy director of the city's public works and utilities department.

Some communities have been told by suppliers that they must make do with the salt they have; no more is coming. Others have found salt for sale, but it must be transported by train from as far away as Utah or Canada.

Or they have been offered salt that is on barges, but that salt must be loaded onto trucks because the barges are stuck on frozen rivers and waterways.

"So the municipalities that could buy bulk salt early in the year at \$53 a ton are now paying \$130 a ton a week ago," said Tom Breier, general manager of Ice Melt Chicago, which sells salt to cities and school districts. "And I heard the prices have gone up to \$175 to \$180 a ton. It could easily go to \$200 a ton or more."



A woman with an umbrella walks in the snow along Jayhawk Boulevard on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014.

## C. Indiana man back home 18 years after abduction

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—Nathan Slinkard was 5 years old when his mother failed to return him to his father as an Indiana court had ordered.

On Tuesday, the 23-year-old man was back home with his father, about a week after he walked into the United States Consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico, identified himself and asked to come home to the U.S.

His return 18 years after he went missing buoyed investigators who hope Nathan's return leads to a bigger reunion with his siblings and their father, Steve Slinkard.

"We all thought that after all the kids were legal that this would happen. It's just awesome that it still happened after all these years," said Hancock County Sheriff's Department Lt. Ted Munden, the last local investigator in the case.

Nathan Slinkard was 5, his brother, Andrew, was 7, and their sister, Sydney, was 3 in October 1995 when they went missing from Greenfield, a city

about 20 miles east of Indianapolis. Authorities say their mother, Trena Slinkard, failed to return them despite a court order after their father filed a motion seeking full custody.

It wasn't immediately clear when the children were taken out of the United States, or under what circumstances Nathan Slinkard and the others separated.

Investigators had tried to track the family for years, Munden said. He said officers regularly pursued tips about possible sightings, but they always proved false.

Then Nathan Slinkard walked into the consulate office and provided his Social Security card and birth certificate to consulate officials, who also used scars to confirm his identity.

"It's great," Munden said.

Nathan Slinkard arrived in Indianapolis last week after a stop in Houston, the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said

Tuesday. He's been reunited with his father and aunt.

"He's staying with Dad right now," Munden said Tuesday. "He's a good kid, lots of ambitions."

The whereabouts of his siblings aren't known. Munden said Nathan Slinkard hadn't divulged the others' locations but said they were safe and unconfined. Munden said Andrew and Sydney apparently know they are free to return to the U.S. if they desire.

"They're just not ready to do that yet," he said.

Munden said there is still a state warrant for Trena Slinkard's arrest in the custody case but that police "would be more than happy to drop that warrant if they wanted to come back."

His only caveat is that investigators would want Trena Slinkard to have "one sit down with Steve and the three children."

The Slinkards have requested privacy and did not return phone calls and emails seeking comment.

## AP: Police say teacher acknowledged sex

By AMY TAXIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A California educator acknowledged to police that she had a sexual relationship with a teenage student who confronted her years later over the phone and posted video of the conversation on YouTube, authorities said in a court filing released Tuesday.

In an arrest declaration obtained by The Associated Press, Riverside police Detective Roberta Hopewell said 40-year-old Andrea Cardosa told Alhambra police she had a previous sexual relationship with the now-28-year-old woman who made the video.

The officers interviewed Cardosa after the woman sent a link to the video to the principal of Alhambra High School, where Cardosa was an assistant principal. Cardosa resigned her job that day.

"During the interview, Cardosa admitted to having sexual relationship with Jane Doe (hash)1," Hopewell wrote in the papers filed in Riverside County Superior Court seeking Cardosa's arrest.

The declaration sheds additional light on the case that was spurred when the woman posted the video on Jan. 17 on

YouTube of the telephone conversation she had with Cardosa about the alleged abuse. Within days, the video was seen nearly 1 million times.

Prosecutors charged Cardosa on Monday with five counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child and 11 other counts of abuse involving the youth and

a second alleged victim who came forward after watching the video.

Cardosa was arrested on a \$5 million warrant and was scheduled to make her first court appearance Wednesday.

If convicted of the aggravated sexual assault charges, she could face a life sentence, prosecutors said.

Randy Collins, Cardosa's attorney, declined to comment on the allegations but said he would challenge the use of the video as evidence since state law requires parties to consent to being recorded.

"These are old, old allegations, and before we get into whether or not the evidence is going to be viable or credible when we get to court, we have to deal with whether this case should even be in court," he said.

John Henry, supervising deputy district attorney for Riverside County, said he intends to

use the video in court.

"Based on my view of the law, I think that there is a very good chance that a judge will find it admissible," he said.

The state's Commission on Teacher Credentialing on Tuesday suspended Cardosa's credentials, according to the agency's website.

Fifteen counts against Cardosa stem from allegations of abuse between 1997 and 2001 involving Jamie, the woman who posted the YouTube video. The statute of limitations does not apply because the five aggravated sexual assault charges carry a life sentence and the other charges meet a handful of specific conditions, prosecutors said.

One count stems from accusations related to the second woman, named Brianna.

Both women have asked to be identified by their first names. The Associated Press is not using either woman's full name because they say they are victims of sexual abuse.

In the video, Jamie phones Alhambra High School, where receptionists connect her to a woman who identifies herself as Cardosa.

"You should be so ashamed and so disgusted with yourself," Jamie says.

"I am. I am," the woman says. "I regret it every day. Every day."



Cardosa



# Asia

## Thai opposition petitions court to annul election

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Thailand's main opposition party petitioned a court Tuesday to annul last weekend's disrupted national election, launching a legal challenge that could prolong the deeply divided country's political paralysis.

The Democrat Party's petition to the Constitutional Court also urges the dissolution of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's ruling party, which called Sunday's elections in a bid to defuse anti-government protests that started three months ago.

Wiratana Kalayasiri, a former opposition lawmaker and head of the Democrat Party's legal team, said the petition argues the polls violated the constitution on several grounds, including that they were not completed in one day.

Critics call the Democrats' argument counterintuitive, saying the reason the election could not be finished in one day is because anti-government protesters backed by the party sabotaged the vote.

The Democrat Party boycotted the election, and the protesters aligned with it forced the closure of hundreds of polling stations in Bangkok and the south, preventing millions of people from voting.

As a result, a series of special elections are required to complete the balloting. Election results cannot be announced until all areas have successfully voted.

"This election has violated the constitution on several counts, but mainly it was not a fair one," Wiratana said. "The election was not held on the same day ... that is why we are seeking to nullify it."

Prompong Nopparit, spokesman for Yingluck's Pheu Thai party, said the Democrats "are initiating another front of attack to help the street protesters."

"They are the ones who did not even participate in the election. They are more likely the ones who are trying to overthrow democracy through uncon-



Anti-government protesters raise their hands to show that they have no weapons during a rally outside the office of the permanent secretary for defense where Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was reportedly working inside, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

stitutional means," he said.

Despite fears of violence, the voting proceeded peacefully in 90 percent of polling stations.

The struggle to hold the balloting was part of a 3-month-old conflict that has split the country between supporters of Yingluck and opponents, who allege her government is too corrupt to rule, and that she is a puppet of her brother, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin

Shinawatra.

Thaksin, a billionaire businessman who is the most divisive figure in modern Thai history, fled into exile to avoid a corruption conviction after being deposed in a 2006 military coup.

The demonstrators have occupied

major intersections in Bangkok and forced government ministries to shut down and work elsewhere.

The protesters are demanding the elected government be replaced by an unelected "people's council" to enact reforms ahead of new elections and

remove the Shinawatra family's influence from politics.

Yingluck has refused to step down, arguing she was elected by a large majority and is open to reform, but that such a council would be unconstitutional and undemocratic.

## Philippines suspects rebels in army convoy bombing

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Suspected hardline Muslim rebels set off a bomb near a military convoy trailed by television journalists Tuesday in the southern Philippines but nobody was hurt, military officials said.

It was the second time in three days that journalists were endangered by bombings in the restive south while covering a weeklong offensive by Philippine troops against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement. The guerrilla group is opposed to a new peace deal between the government and the main Muslim rebel group.

The offensive, which ended over the weekend, killed at least 52 rebels and led to the capture of a rebel stronghold with a bomb-making facility in Ganta village in Maguindanao province. A soldier died in the clashes.

Government forces have been on alert, fearing the insurgents may detonate bombs to retaliate for their losses, regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said.

Hermoso said a roadside bomb exploded as army troops in trucks and

armored personnel carriers, followed by five media vans, were passing by in Maguindanao's Mamasapano town.

Reporter Chito Gascon of GMA Network Inc. said shrapnel from the bomb struck an armored personnel carrier and dark smoke obscured the road.

The troops and journalists immediately left the area, fearing there could be other bombs.

Rebel spokesman Abu Misry denied his group was involved, saying troops may have detonated the bomb and blamed his comrades to tarnish their image. He said the rebels do not target journalists but warned them from joining military convoys which might be attacked.

A bomb also believed to have been set off by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement rebels wounded 12 people, including two television journalists, on Saturday in Maguindanao.

The International Federation of Journalists expressed concern over the safety of Filipino journalists following Saturday's bombing and said the government should swiftly prosecute those behind such attacks.

## China takes aim at exclusive restaurants in parks

**BEIJING (AP)**—For years, the sumptuous Scholarly House restaurant and its compound of pavilions in the center of Beijing's Dragon Lake Park has been off-limits to most park goers, catering to wealthy businessmen and government officials.

But now it has been forced to throw open its gates to the public, one of many ritzy restaurants and private clubs in public parks that have become the latest targets of an austerity campaign by the government to curb lavish banquets for party cadres—considered a breeding ground of corruption.

On a recent afternoon, curious visitors ventured over zig-zagging walkways over the water and peeked at locked-up buildings, seeing their reflections in the mirrored windows.

"What were they doing inside that they didn't want others to see?" one woman asked with indignation. "That's what our public servants are like!" retorted another park goer.

The campaign initiated last year by Chinese leader Xi Jinping has ordered these oases of exclusivity to either close down or revamp themselves as hang outs for common people. The moves won't stop favor-seeking businesspeople from seeking new, more covert venues to

treat Chinese officials to banquets, but they are aimed at soothing public resentment while the Communist Party seeks longer-term solutions to pervasive corruption.

"They cannot close all the fancy restaurants in the streets, but members of the public detest the ones in the parks the most, because parks are where they exercise, play and relax," said law professor Jiang Ming'an at Peking University.

The Scholarly House is turning off its kitchen stoves later this month after the Chinese New Year's holiday, a receptionist who gave her family name of Yu said over the phone. "Our location is not so good," she said.

Over the past decade, upscale restaurants sprung up inside China's urban parks as enterprising operators took advantage of ambiguous land-use rules and park and local government officials sought extra revenue. While many of these spots were technically open to the public, their high prices—the Scholarly House could fetch \$250 per person—put them out of reach of ordinary people, and some required membership.

"Those high-end restaurants are usually where businesspeople are trying to rope in government officials with

bribes," Jiang said.

In May, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued a ruling that no public space should be hogged by only a few people, and since then high-end restaurants in parks across China have been asked to close or retool their menus.

Last month, state-run media went on a blitz to publicize closures of restaurants and members-only clubs in the parks of Beijing and the scenic southern city of Hangzhou.

The campaign has in some cases run rough-shod over the rights of private restaurant owners, Beijing-based political commentator Shi Shusi said.

"The restaurants in the parks are easy to pick on," Shi said. "What the leaders are trying to win for now is public opinion so they may have more time and space to figure out their next step to fight corruption, which we have yet to see."

The restaurants have had no choice but to obey.

"It came quite suddenly, and we were not prepared," Shen Yongzhen, manager of the upscale Lotus Manor in Hangzhou's scenic West Lake area, said on state television. "But we are firmly supporting the decision by party authorities."



## World

# Syrian forces hit mosque with crude bomb, kill 11

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Men pull a girl from the rubble and haul her onto a dirty sheet of plastic, while another child, coated in white dust save for a red streak of blood from his nose, lies with his crushed leg dangling off a gurney—the grisly aftermath from the dropping of a crude “barrel bomb” by Syrian forces on the city of Aleppo.

The bombing—one of at least seven such attacks in Aleppo on Tuesday—struck a mosque that was being used as a school, killing at least 11 people, activists said. A video supplied by activists contained scenes of the carnage.

It was the latest example of the heightened use of barrel bombs, devices packed with fuel, explosives and scrap metal

that are hurled from helicopters, often indiscriminately.

Since Thursday, around 80 people have been killed by barrel bombs used by Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces to try to dislodge rebels from Aleppo, according to figures provided by the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists on the ground.

The video uploaded from the rebel-held Masaken Hanano district showed the aftermath of the explosion at or near the Uthman Bin Affan mosque, where adults were teaching children the Quran, said activist Hassoun Abu Faisal of the Aleppo Media Center.

The video, excerpts of which are at <http://apne.ws/1c0t9yt>

, was consistent with what reporting by The Associated Press found.

A cameraman films from inside a vehicle as it speeds toward a place where dust is drifting into a clear blue sky. The camera swivels to men and boys running around a building that has been torn in half by an explosion.

“Are there martyrs?” the narrator asks. His camera focuses on a lump of red flesh in a vehicle.

It is the beginning of a grim litany of death, as seen from the jerking camera.

A child, his legs missing, lies on the ground, partially covered by a blanket.

“Are there anybody’s chil-

dren here?” cries one man.

“Bashar, you lowlife!” cries another, referring to the Syrian ruler, raising his hands angrily to the sky. Another man shakes a blackened body inside a vehicle.

A man carries a lifeless boy, lifting him partly by his clothes, and leaves him on the sidewalk near two other mangled corpses. An older man with a bloodied face stumbles toward the child, weeping, “Oh, God, your grace, oh, God.”

The cameraman also captures scenes of the boy with the crushed leg and the girl pulled from the ruins.

The Observatory said at least five of the dead in Masaken Hanano were children.

The use of barrel bombs across Syria has been widely condemned by human rights groups because of the weapons’ indiscriminate nature. They have been a key part of a government strategy to wrest back parts of Aleppo seized by rebels in mid-2012.

Far from the battlegrounds in Syria, Assad’s chief ally, Russia, expressed confidence that the government would return to the

U.N.-hosted peace talks in Geneva that began in January after three years of war.

“We have no doubts that the government representatives will take place in a second round of talks between the Syrian sides in Geneva,” Mikhail Bogdanov, Russian deputy foreign minister and Moscow’s special envoy to the Middle East, said in comments carried on Russian news agencies.

## Vatican surveys find that Catholics reject sex rules

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—New surveys commissioned by the Vatican show that the vast majority of Catholics in Germany and Switzerland reject church teaching on contraception, sexual morality, gay unions and divorce, findings remarkable both in their similarity and in the fact that they were even publicized.

The Vatican took the unusual step of commissioning the surveys ahead of a major meeting of bishops that Pope Francis has called for October to discuss family issues. The poll was sent last year to every national conference of bishops with a request to share it widely among Catholic institutions, parishes and individuals.

This week, German and Swiss bishops reported the results: The church’s core teachings on sexual morals, birth control, homosexuality, marriage and divorce were rejected as unrealistic and outdated by the vast majority of Catholics, who nevertheless said they were active in parish life and considered their faith vitally important.

Also surprising was the eagerness with which the bishops publicized the results. The German bishops’ conference released them simultaneously in German, Italian and English on their website, and the Swiss held a press conference.

The German church has been at the forefront of pushing boundaries on core church teachings concerning divorced and remarried Catholics, an issue Francis has said greatly pains him. It is expected to feature prominently in the October meeting.

The German bishops’ survey made clear: “The church’s statements on premarital sexual relations, on homosexuality, on those divorced and remarried and on birth control ... are virtually never accepted, or are expressly rejected in the vast majority of cases.”

The Swiss bishops went further, saying the church’s very mission was being threatened by its insistence on such directives. It’s an issue Francis himself has weighed in on, decrying

the church’s “obsession” with small-minded rules.

By contrast, U.S. dioceses haven’t reported the results of their surveys in any detail. Baltimore Archbishop William Lori wrote in a recent diocesan article that more than 4,000 people had responded to his survey, but provided scant information on what they said. He wrote that “the majority of Catholics who responded said they strive to practice their faith, but acknowledged the struggles and confusion they face in doing so.”

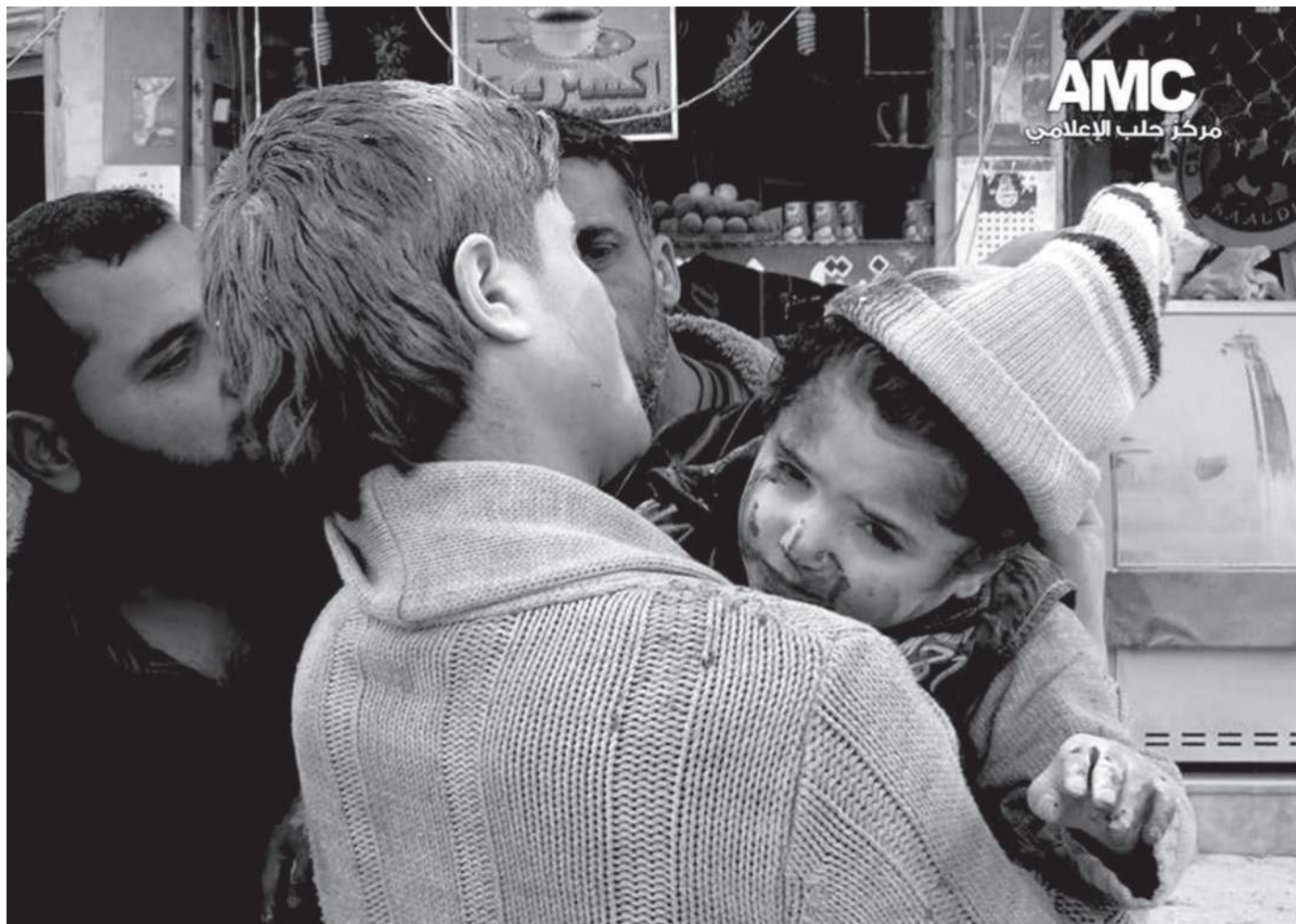
The archdiocese of Philadelphia, meanwhile, said it was following Vatican guidelines by not publishing the findings at all.

But if independent studies are any indication, American Catholics are likely to agree with their European counterparts at least on the issue of contraception. A 2013 survey by the Pew Research Center found that three-quarters of U.S. Catholics think the church should permit members to use birth control.

Church teaching holds that marriage is an indissoluble union between a man and woman. The Vatican opposes artificial contraception and considers homosexual acts to be “intrinsically disordered.”

The surveys found that German and Swiss Catholics rejected such teachings as out of step with their personal lives. Gay marriage is increasingly accepted, unmarried couples are increasingly the norm and the ban on artificial contraception is deemed not only unrealistic but “blatantly immoral” concerning the use of condoms to fight HIV.

Church teaching also holds that Catholics who don’t have their first marriage annulled, or declared null and void by a church tribunal, before remarrying cannot receive Communion because they are essentially living in sin and committing adultery. Such annulments are often impossible to get or can take years to process, a problem that has left generations of Catholics feeling shunned.



This photo provided by the anti-government activist group Aleppo Media Center (AMC), which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a Syrian man carrying a wounded child following a Syrian government airstrike in Aleppo, Syria, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

## Libya says all chemical weapons destroyed

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)**—Libya’s Foreign Ministry said Tuesday the country’s caches of chemical weapons, including bombs and artillery shells filled with mustard gas, have been completely destroyed.

“Libya is totally empty of any presence of chemical weapons ... which could pose a threat to the safety of people, the environment, or neighboring regions,” Mohammed Abdel-Aziz said in remarks carried by Libya’s state news agency.

The eradication of the weapons, which date from the era of slain dictator Moammar Gadhafi, marks an important success for Libya, even as Syria, its

neighbor in the eastern Mediterranean, is struggling to destroy its own chemical weapons hoard amid a civil war.

Under Gadhafi, Libya declared in 2004 it had 25 metric tons of sulfur mustard and 1,400 metric tons of precursor chemicals used to make chemical weapons. It also declared more than 3,500 unfilled aerial bombs designed for use with chemical warfare agents such as sulfur mustard, and three chemical weapons production facilities.

At the time, Gadhafi was trying to shed his image as an international outcast and restore relations with Western governments by destroying his existing

weapons of mass destruction and abandoning aspirations to obtain a nuclear bomb.

By the start of Libya’s civil war in 2011, the country had destroyed 55 percent of its declared sulfur mustard and 40 percent of the precursor chemicals.

Gadhafi didn’t or couldn’t use chemical weapons during the fighting. After the revolution, the new government uncovered some additional munitions loaded with mustard gas that hadn’t previously been disclosed.

Destruction resumed in early 2013 at a facility in remote Ruwagha, some 370 miles (600 kilometers) south of Tripoli.

The director of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which assists countries in verifiably destroying their chemical weapons, said destroying Libya’s weapons had been a “major undertaking.”

The work was done in “arduous, technically challenging circumstances,” OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu said in a statement, crediting cooperation between Libya and his own organization, as well as help from Germany and the U.S.

Preparations will now be made to destroy Libya’s remaining precursor chemicals by the end of 2016.



# Environment

## Pacific countries prepare to enforce historic shark protections

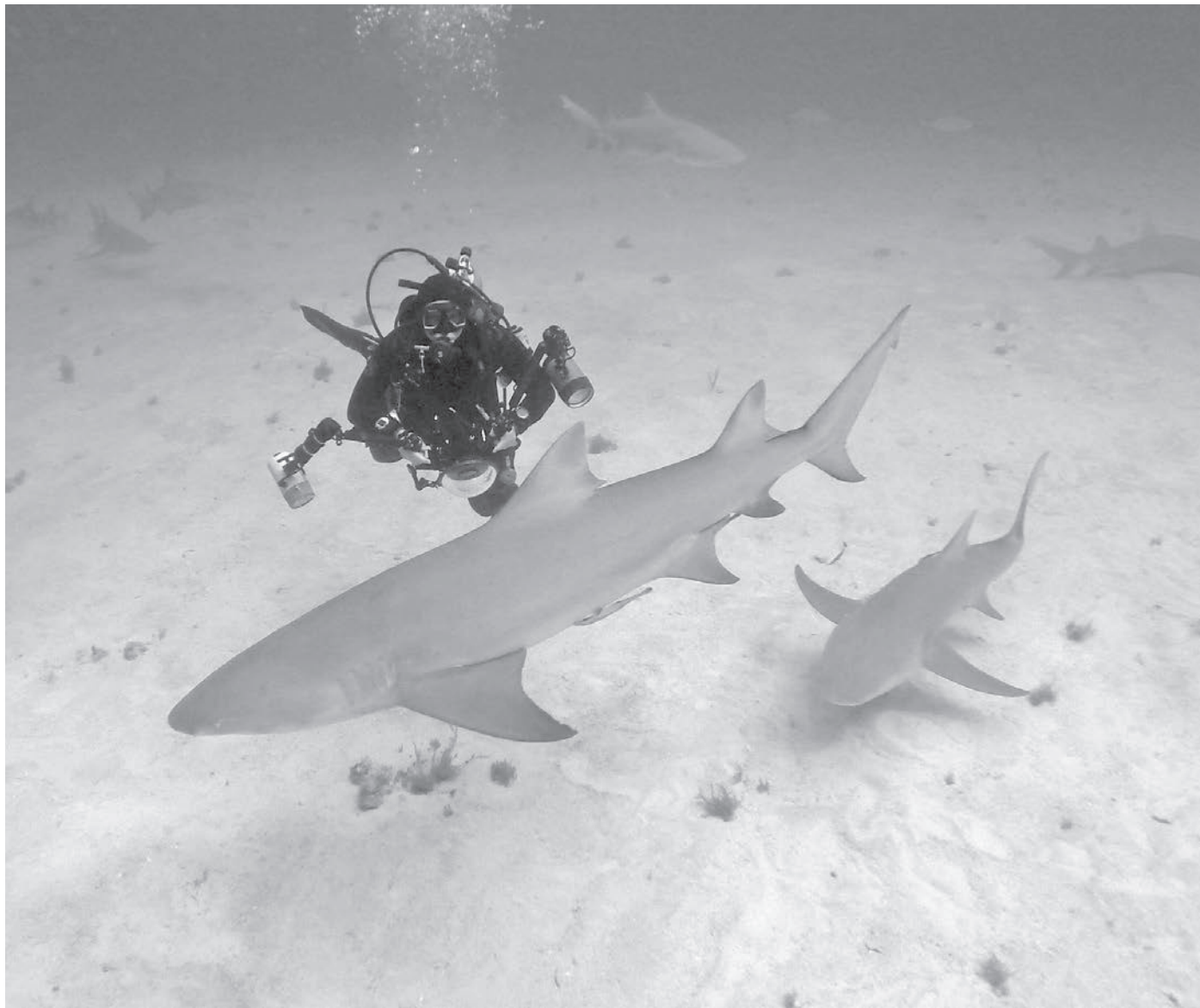
In seven months, more than 170 countries will start enforcing trade protections to help save several shark species from extinction. Next week, preparation in the Pacific region begins in earnest.

On Feb. 11 and 12, government representatives from 11 countries will gather in Nadi, Fiji, to discuss the implementation of international shark protections approved under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES. The workshop is hosted by the Fijian government, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Coral Reef Alliance.

Fisheries, environment, and customs officials from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu have confirmed their attendance. Intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations from throughout the Pacific have also been invited.

"It's exciting to see so many countries across the Pacific working to save some of the most vulnerable shark species," said Imogen Zethoven, director of global shark conservation for Pew. "These are the most significant marine protections in the 40-year history of CITES. They reflect the global consensus that people need healthy oceans, and healthy oceans need sharks."

Last March, CITES member countries granted porbeagle, oceanic whitetip, and three species of hammerhead sharks



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

A diving photographer moves into position to photograph one of the many larger lemon sharks at Tiger Beach, in The Bahamas.

what is known as Appendix II designation. Species included on Appendix II are not yet threatened with extinction but could go in that direction if populations decline further

and if trade continues at an unsustainable rate. Appendix II still allows international trade, but only if it is regulated. This action can give depleted species a chance to recover by

allowing only sustainable and legal trade through a rigorous permitting system.

The workshop is being conducted by marine biologists, conservationists, and trade ex-

perts from around the world. Demian Chapman, an assistant professor at Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and assistant science director of the

university's Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, will demonstrate how to identify the fins of protected sharks. Stan Shea, an official with the ocean conservation organization BLOOM, will discuss the shark trade in Hong Kong.

Through sessions such as this, Pew is working to help government officials develop the practical expertise needed to enforce CITES protections. Another workshop is being planned in Southeast Asia later this year.

"The CITES vote in March last year was historic, but in September, the real work begins," said Nannette Malsol of Palau's Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management. "We're grateful that the government of Fiji, Pew, and the Coral Reef Alliance are holding this workshop to help us implement these vital shark protections."

Half of all observed shark and ray species are predicted to be threatened or near threatened with extinction. Humans kill an estimated 100 million sharks every year—more than 11,000 an hour. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists scalloped hammerheads as endangered, along with giant pandas and blue whales. Other CITES-protected shark species are classified as vulnerable, on par with lions, cheetahs, and polar bears.

Pew has worked for five years with governments in the Pacific at the domestic, regional, and international levels to protect sharks from overfishing. (*Pew Charitable Trusts*)

## Threatened Oregon fish may be removed from Endangered Species List

By JULIE CART  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Twenty years of federal and local efforts to save the Oregon chub, a tiny minnow found only in the Willamette River Basin floodplain, have brought the fish to the verge of being taken off the Endangered Species List.

If the effort is successful, the chub will be the first fish de-listed because its species is considered recovered.

Chub thrive in habitats with little water flow and were imperiled by habitat loss and threats from non-native fish.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and private landowners collaborated to restore habi-

tat and natural water flows. A program educated private property owners how to manage the species on their land, in some cases reintroducing the fish to local waterways.

Chub were listed as endangered in 1993 and down-listed as threatened in 2010. At the time of listing, fewer than 1,000 of the fish were known to exist in eight population groups. The current population stands at more than 150,000 fish at 80 locations.

In addition to the proposed delisting, the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to remove the chub's critical habitat designation throughout its range.

On Thursday the proposal will be open to a 60-day public comment period. A final decision will be made next year.

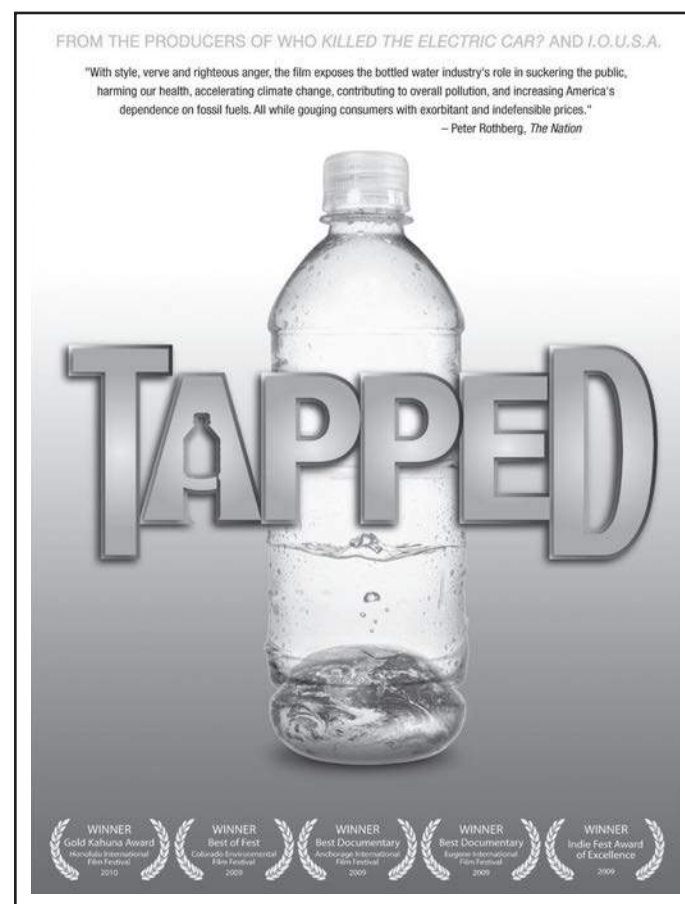
## FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

## Free movie at AMP discusses bottled water, trash

First Friday Films presents the new film *Tapped* on Friday, Feb. 7, at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park about bottled water, why we love it and why we shouldn't love it.

The film asks, "Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right, or a commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce?" The documentary is a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of the bottled water industry—an industry that aims to privatize and sell back the one resource that ought never to become a commodity: our water. "Tapped" is a portrait of the lives affected by the bottled water industry, from the plastic production to the ocean in which so many of these bottles end up.

Before the film, Jose M. Kaipat from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Safe Drinking Water Branch will give a brief presentation about drinking water and bottle



usage on Saipan. Kaipat has been with DEQ for 18 years in various capacities and can speak first-hand about the regulations and concerns about drinking water sources in the CNMI. As the chief coordinator of BECQ's Monthly Cleanup Brigade, Kaipat also knows the damaging environmental impacts of our beverage containers after the drinks are consumed.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. This film is sponsored by the Division of Environmental Quality. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run about 75 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email [fff-saipan@gmail.com](mailto:fff-saipan@gmail.com) or check out [www.firstfridayfilmsaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmsaipan.blogspot.com). (*PR*)



# Life & Style

## NY police: Hoffman's heroin didn't have additive

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Heroin recovered at Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman's apartment after he was found there dead with a syringe in his arm has tested negative for the powerful additive fentanyl, a police official said Tuesday.

Samples taken from Hoffman's Manhattan apartment didn't contain the potent synthetic morphine, which is added to intensify the high and has been linked to 22 suspected overdose deaths in western Pennsylvania, said the official, who wasn't authorized to talk about the evidence and insisted on anonymity.

Investigators also have determined that the "Capote" star made six ATM transactions for a total of \$1,200 inside a supermarket near his home the day before his death, law enforcement officials said Tuesday. They've been piecing together his final hours using video surveillance to determine his whereabouts.

The 46-year-old actor was found dead in the bathroom

of his apartment Sunday. His door was double-locked when his body was found around 11:30 a.m. by his assistant and a friend, law enforcement officials have said.

Besides the bank records, investigators discovered buprenorphine, a drug used to treat heroin addiction, at Hoffman's apartment and are examining a computer and two iPads found at the scene for clues, two law enforcement officials said.

A spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office said Tuesday there has been no official determination made on what killed Hoffman. Police have said the medical examiner's ruling on his cause of death will determine whether there is any criminality but they suspect it was an overdose.



A couple adds to the flowers placed outside the apartment building of actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman, in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014. AP

More than 50 small plastic envelopes of heroin were recovered in Hoffman's apartment along with syringes, a charred

spoon and various prescription medications, including a blood pressure drug and a muscle relaxant, law enforcement offi-

cial have said.

Some of the packets were variously stamped with the ace of hearts and others with the ace

of spades, they said.

The New York Police Department's intensive effort to determine the source of the drugs in an apparent accidental overdose is unusual. Courts have found in past rulings that under state law drug dealers can't be held liable for a customer's death.

Addiction specialist Dr. Louis Baxter, a former president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, said Tuesday that addicts, especially those who have built up high tolerances, can use as much as two bundles of heroin, or about two dozen packets, per day.

"Addicts with financial means will actually stockpile their drug," he said. "Someone who has developed tolerance, who is seeking to develop a high, may need to inject every two hours or so."

The Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home, which has orchestrated the funerals for celebrities including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and James Cagney, said it was arranging Hoffman's service. It said Hoffman's family had requested a private funeral.

The funeral is to be held Friday.

## Bill Nye defends evolution

**PETERSBURG, Ky. (AP)**—TV's "Science Guy" Bill Nye and the leader of a Kentucky museum who believes in creationism debated a question Tuesday that has nagged humankind: "How did we get here?"

Ken Ham, the founder of the Creation Museum, believes the Earth was created 6,000 years ago and that the Bible tells the factual account of the universe's beginnings and the creation of humans. Nye said he, and the rest of the scientific community, believe the Earth was created by a big bang billions of years ago and people have evolved over time.

"I just want to remind us all there are billions of people in the world who are deeply religious, who get enriched by the wonderful sense of community by their religion," said Nye, who wore his trademark bow tie. "But these same people do not embrace the extraordinary view that the Earth is somehow only 6,000 years old."

Nye said technology keeps the U.S. ahead as a world leader and he worried that if creationism is taught to children the country would fall behind.

"If we continue to eschew science ... we are not going to move forward," Nye said. "We will not embrace natural laws. We will not make discoveries. We will not invent and innovate and stay ahead."

Ham showed the theater audience of about 800 people—and those watching the debate live on the Internet—slides backing up his assertions.

"Creation is the only viable model of historical science confirmed by observational science

in today's modern scientific era," Ham said.

He also introduced scientists who he said were also creationists.

"I believe the word 'science' has been high-jacked by secularists," Ham said.

Some scientists were critical of Nye for agreeing to debate the head of a Christian ministry that is dismissive of evolution.

Jerry Coyne, a professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago, wrote on his blog that "Nye's appearance will be giving money to organizations who try to subvert the mission Nye has had all his life: science education, particularly of kids." Coyne pointed out that the Creation Museum will be selling DVDs of the event.

The museum quickly sold out its 800 seats, thanks in part to Nye's celebrity as the former host of "Bill Nye The Science Guy," a 1990s science education TV program that is still played in some classrooms. Some people in the audience wore "Bill Nye is my home boy" T-shirts. Another fan wore a bow tie and Nye's signature lab coat.

Ham said there were hundreds of thousands of visitors to his Facebook page Tuesday, and the Creation Museum hasn't had the spotlight shined on it like this since its opening in May 2007.

Nye waded into the evolution debate in an online video in 2012 that urged parents not to pass their religious-based doubts about evolution on to their children. Ham rebutted Nye's statements with his own online video with comments from scientists who work at the museum.

## Hero or traitor? Pope's aide in Polish controversy

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)**—One of the cardinal rules in the Catholic church: obedience to the pope. So it has come as a shock for many in the Catholic world that John Paul II's most trusted confidant has betrayed the beloved pontiff's last will and testament by publishing personal notes he wanted burned.

Deep moral dilemmas were at stake for Stanislaw Dziwisz—between loyalty and conscience, the wishes of the pope and the obligations of history.

John Paul ordered the notes burned after his death and put Dziwisz, his secretary, in charge of the task. To everyone's surprise, Dziwisz, now a cardinal, said recently that he "did not have the courage" to destroy the notes and is having them published as a precious insight into the inner life of the beloved pontiff, who will be declared a saint in April.

The book—"Very Much in God's Hands. Personal Notes 1962-2003"—comes out in Poland on Wednesday.

Criticism so far has outpaced praise.

"I don't think it is right for a church member to go against the will and authority of the pope, whatever the reason," Ewelina Gniewnik said as she was leaving Savior's Church in downtown Warsaw. "I'm not sure that Cardinal Dziwisz knows what he is doing."

The Polish-language book contains religious meditations that Karol Wojtyla recorded between July 1962 and March 2003—spanning a period in which he went from being a

bishop in Poland to a globe-trotting superstar pope. There are plans to publish the book in English and other languages but no details have been fixed.

The decision to publish does not go against papal infallibility, which contrary to popular belief applies only to matters of church doctrine. And Dziwisz was also free to follow his conscience—since the obligation to obey the pope ends with his death or retirement.

Still some are expressing shock that a trusted aide would defy the orders of the pope, especially on a matter as sacred as a will—with the Internet flooded with angry comments against Dziwisz.

The book itself may be a tough slog for ordinary readers. It runs 640 pages and basically consists of deeply religious, compact, sometimes arcane ideas or trains of thought that spring from citations from the Bible. Priests,

theologians and philosophers will be inspired—the layperson will find it opaque.

However, one cryptic remark about sinful priests, registered in March 1981, perhaps gains new significance under the flood of pedophilia cases against Roman Catholic clergy.

"The social aspect of sin," wrote John Paul, "it hurts the Church as a community. Especially a sin by a priest."

There have been other cases in history in which executors defied instructions of famous people to destroy their work.

Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov's son, Dmitri, published his father's unfinished work "The Original of Laura"—which Nabokov had left instructions to burn—and justified the act by saying he didn't want to go down in history as a "literary arsonist."

Dziwisz was prepared for accusations of betrayal.

He was John Paul's personal secretary and closest aide for almost 40 years in Poland and at the Vatican, where—Vatican experts say—he made key decisions in the pope's waning years. After John Paul's death in 2005 at age 84, he was made Archbishop of Krakow, in southern Poland, where he is building a museum memorial to the Polish pope. The book's proceeds are to go to the memorial.

"I had no doubt," he said recently. "These notes are so important, they say so much about the spiritual side, about the person, about the great pope, that it would have been a crime to destroy them." He noted the despair of historians after Pope Pius XII's letters were burnt.

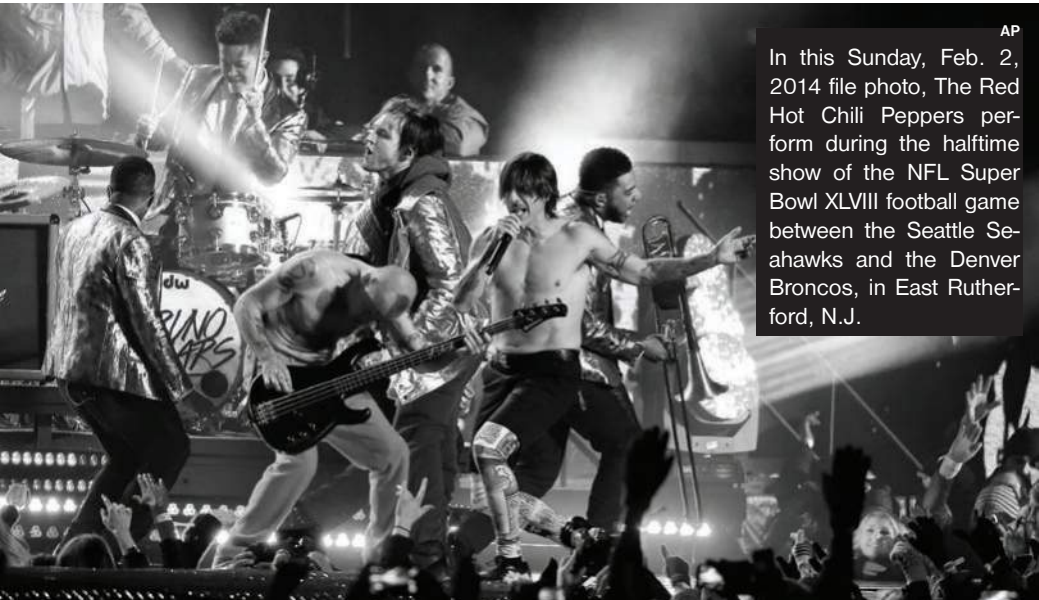


In this Oct. 16, 2003 file photo Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz assists a waving Pope John Paul II during a special audience in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. AP



Life & Style

Flea: Red Hot Chili Peppers mimed Super Bowl song



AP  
In this Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014 file photo, The Red Hot Chili Peppers perform during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game between the Seattle Seahawks and the Denver Broncos, in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers decided long ago they were never going to mime a live performance. The band made an exception for the NFL, it turns out. The group’s bassist, Flea, said in a letter to fans posted on the group’s website Tuesday

that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members pretended to play along to a pre-taped track of “Give It Away” during the Super Bowl halftime show as Anthony Kiedis sang live. The request came from NFL officials who felt it was too difficult

to pull off a completely live performance because of potential sound issues. The admission came after observers noted Flea and his bandmates weren’t plugged in while performing Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Flea wrote on the band’s website that the opportunity was too big for the lifelong football fans to turn down. After internal debate, dubiously checking with fellow musicians and consulting with headliner Bruno Mars, they decided it was “a surreal-like, once in a life time crazy thing to do and we would just have fun and do it.” The 51-year-old said the group pre-recorded a unique instrumental track for the show. He didn’t directly address whether Mars also recorded instrumental tracks for his appearance, though he said Mars was aware they did. A publicist for Mars did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment. A record 115 million people tuned into watch Mars and the Peppers, besting audiences of 114 million for Madonna and 110 million for Beyonce.

Justin Bieber gets March trial date in Fla. case

MIAMI (AP)—A trial date has been set for Justin Bieber in Miami for his recent arrest on charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an invalid license.

The March 3 date for the three misdemeanors was set Tuesday by an automated court system. Bieber’s attorneys have filed a written plea of not guilty. Initial trial dates are often delayed.

The 19-year-old pop star was arrested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police called an illegal drag race between two exotic sports cars driven by Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir

Sharieff. Sharieff was also arrested on a DUI charge. Breath tests showed Bieber’s blood alcohol content below the .02 threshold for underage drivers. Police say a toxicology test detected marijuana and Xanax in his system.

Paul Walker’s estate estimated at \$25 million

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Paul Walker’s teenage daughter is the sole beneficiary of the actor’s estate, which is valued at an estimated \$25 million, court records show. The star’s final will and testament was filed Jan. 28 in Santa Barbara and calls for his father to serve as executor of the estate and for his mother to serve as guardian of the actor’s 15-year-old daughter. The will was prepared and signed in 2001, the same year Walker starred in the first “Fast



Walker

& Furious” film that launched the successful film franchise and will continue generating millions for the actor’s estate. Walker, 40, died Nov. 30 in a fiery car crash in Los Angeles County. He was a passenger in a specialty Porsche driven by friend and financial adviser Roger Rodas that burst into flames after colliding with a light pole and tree. A coroner’s report said investigators found no mechanical problems with the Porsche, which may have been going 100 mph or more before it crashed. Much of the actor’s wealth came from unspecified personal property, which is currently worth \$8 million, and a home worth an estimated \$10 million, court filings show.

The records show Walker’s estate is expected to earn another \$8 million, some of which is likely related to the seventh “Fast & Furious” film scheduled to be released in April 2015. Shooting of the film was halfway complete when Walker was killed. Universal Pictures has said Walker will remain in the film but hasn’t laid out how it will handle footage that had already been shot. The actor appeared in all but one installment of the popular street racing films.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

**Netflix drama ‘House of Cards’ scores 3rd season**  
NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix Asays its acclaimed drama “House of Cards” will get a third season. The online video provider had previously been cagey about the future of the series, which initially received a two-season order of 13 episodes apiece. It returns with its second season on Feb. 14, when all 13 episodes will join the earlier 13 hours on the Netflix website. Netflix offered no details concerning production start or release date for the third season’s 13 episodes. “House of Cards” stars Kevin Spacey as a diabolical former U.S. senator now risen to vice president. The first season instantly made Netflix a force in the arena of original video content and snagged nine prime-time Emmy nominations. Robin Wright won a Golden

Globe for her portrayal of Spacey’s scheming wife. **George Washington biographer receives \$5,000 prize**  
NEW YORK (AP)—The author of a George Washington biography has received a \$5,000 prize. Norwich University officials on Tuesday named Logan Beirne’s “Blood of Tyrants: George Washington & the Forging of the Presidency” winner of the William E. Colby award. The prize named for former CIA director William E. Colby is given for an outstanding debut work of fiction or nonfiction about the military, intelligence operations or international affairs. The Colby award was founded at Norwich, based in Northfield, Vt., in 1999. Previous winners include Karl Marlantes, Dexter Filkins and James Bradley.

Pharrell Williams to perform on Oscar telecast



AP  
Pharrell Williams performs at The Night that Changed America: A Grammy Salute to the Beatles, on Monday, Jan. 27, 2014, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pharrell Williams will perform at the Academy Awards. Oscar producers said Tuesday the producer-performer will sing his nominated song “Happy.” There was no word on whether his Grammy Award-stealing hat would make an appearance. Williams wrote “Happy” for “Despicable Me 2.” It’s nominated for original song along with U2’s “Ordinary Love” from “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom,” “Let It Go” by Idina Menzel from “Frozen” and Karen O’s “The Moon Song” from “Her.” The 40-year-old Williams has been on quite a run with prominent roles in the recent hits “Get Lucky” and “Blurred Lines” and with four Grammy wins, including producer of the year. The Oscars will be presented March 2.

Kids’ handheld electronics may be more than fun and games

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about the letter from “Holding My Tongue” (Nov. 8), the woman who was upset because many children were playing with electronic devices during her grandchildren’s school concerts and recitals. While I agree that most children should pay attention to the event at hand, as the mother of two children on the autism spectrum, I have a different perspective.

There are apps and games designed to keep these children occupied and help them deal with the stress and anxiety of being in a large group of people. I should not have to leave my sons at home because they are on the spectrum, so a harmless, quiet game that allows them to participate without being disruptive is a godsend to me. Sometimes it is not obvious WHY someone is doing something; so as long as it isn’t disrupting the event, please try to be tolerant.

LAURA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LAURA: Your point is well-stated, and was one made by a number of parents of children with special needs. Readers had interesting comments on this topic, so I’m sharing a few:

DEAR ABBY: If there’s a possibility young children could be unruly during a performance, I think they should be allowed to use a tablet or something to keep them occupied. Sometimes it’s hard to find a sitter or afford one. When children get dragged to programs they have no interest in, they lose patience and become fidgety. If given something to occupy their attention, as long as it has headphones, then I don’t see a problem. I’d rather have that than kids shouting, screaming and crying because they’re unhappy being there.

UNDERSTANDING IN LOUISIANA

DEAR ABBY: In this digital age, we have lost touch with basic common decency and respect for others. I not only notice this in children, but adults as well. I have seen people check their emails while they are in church, or couples sitting together at a restaurant, both fixated on their electronic devices and not speaking a word to each other. It’s sad to imagine what the next generation will be like if we don’t start putting the devices down and interacting with each other again like human beings. I raised all three of my kids this way, so I know it’s not impossible.

MAINTAINING HUMAN CONTACT

DEAR ABBY: When my precious mother passed away last summer, my sister-in-law brought two handheld games to the funeral. My niece and nephew played and played while the pastor spoke about my mother. It was the last straw for me in a series of incredibly rude actions over the years. My children were also appalled. When respect is no longer taught at home, we sink to the lowest level as a society.

DEBRA ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR ABBY: I have stopped attending my friends’ grandchildren’s recitals because I, too, cannot tolerate rudeness. Many parents today just don’t want to bother with their children. If there is a toy that can keep them busy, their parents “enable” them to grow up as idiots who can’t appreciate the world and its beauty because their world is lived entirely on an electronic screen.

GEORGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: What parents who allow this type of behavior don’t seem to understand is that it transfers to the classroom. Their children assume it’s OK to ignore the teacher, the lesson and instructions that in some cases could save a life.

FRUSTRATED EDUCATOR IN MIAMI

DEAR ABBY: I used to conduct workshops for teachers on how to instruct with newspapers. When I started my lecture, I would begin by saying, “OK, teachers, turn off your iPads, iPhones and iPods, because I don’t want to become iRate.” They loved it, and it was a great kickoff for the lecture.

ALFRED IN TEXAS

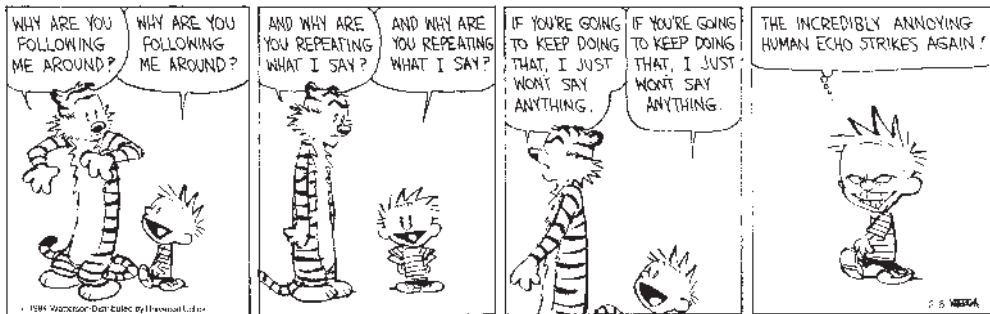
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



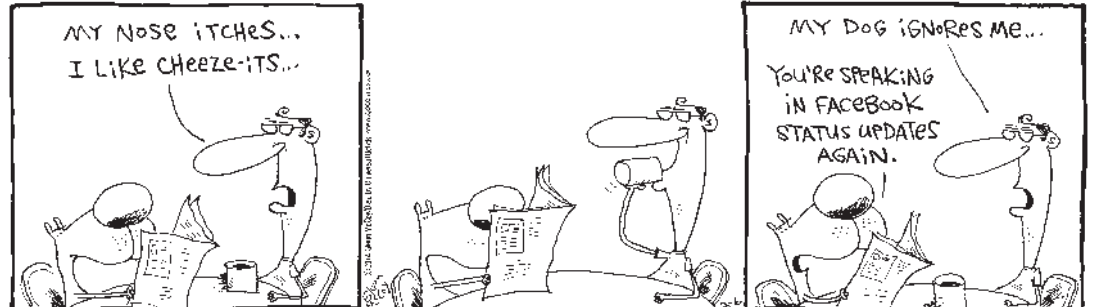
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Spirited horse  
5 Apply lightly  
8 Cripple  
12 Theater box  
13 Roe, to Romans  
14 Really involved with  
15 Author Bellow  
16 "Of course"  
17 Houston acronym  
18 Threatening words  
20 Close up tightly  
22 New Jersey-born rocker  
26 Extended sleeps  
29 Scepter  
30 Group of whales  
31 Banned insecticide  
32 Scoot  
33 Baby-feeding finale

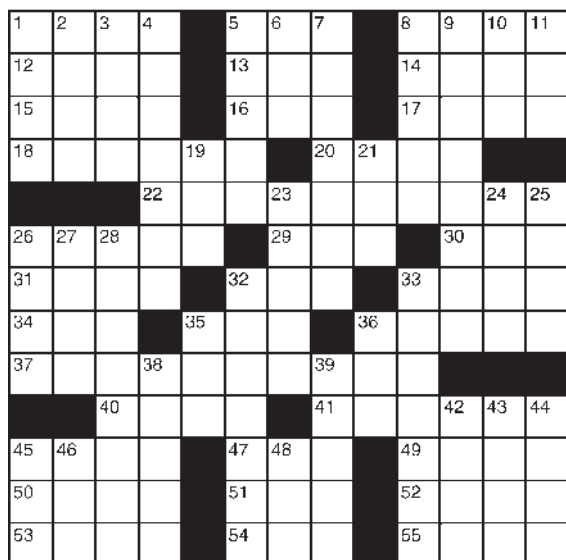
**DOWN**

34 Tractor-trailer  
35 Comprehend  
36 Baby kangaroos  
37 "Enjoy your meal"  
40 October stone  
41 "The Night of the —"  
45 Sandwich shop  
47 Toss in  
49 Weaver's apparatus  
50 Eye part  
51 Spy-novel org.  
52 —  
53 "Why not?"

**11 Kiwi's extinct kin**  
**19 "Mayday!"**  
**21 Finish**  
**23 Animal**  
**24 Change**  
**25 Little**  
**26 Pasta or potato, for short**  
**27 Medley**  
**28 Mississippi emblem**  
**32 Super-sede**  
**33 Toxin in spoiled food**  
**35 Coll. statistic**  
**36 Leprechauns' dance**  
**38 Unoriginal**  
**39 Re ocean motion**  
**42 Top-notch**  
**43 Agrees silently**  
**44 Biblical prophet**  
**45 Home improvement inits.**  
**46 Before**  
**48 Conk out**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 2-6**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Rick Astley, 48; Kathy Najimy, 57; Natalie Cole, 64; Tom Brokaw, 74.

**Happy Birthday:** Take it upon yourself to enforce personal change. Don't let your emotions or those who try to guilt you have the upper hand. You must follow through with what's best for you. Making choices that lead to greater opportunities will play out in your favor. Look for the truth in everything you do and you will find your way. Your numbers are 9, 11, 14, 24, 35, 39, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't get trapped in a no-win situation. Focus on what you can accomplish. Consider the emotional ramifications before you get involved in a topic that could affect your position or reputation. Don't divulge secret information. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Express the way you feel and you can make a difference to the outcome of something that's important to you. Romantic opportunities will allow you to build a better relationship with someone special. Organization and planning will lead to success. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You may be given a false impression regarding what's expected of you at work or at home. Don't risk making a mistake that could cost you. Ask questions and get any approval you might require before you move forward. Don't offer something you cannot deliver. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Relying on someone from your past or calling in a favor owed to you will put you in an interesting position with more options. Love is in

the stars and sharing your thoughts or planning a romantic evening will pay off. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Keep your emotions out of the workplace. Don't show your feelings or let someone have the upper hand by using emotional manipulation to get his or her way. Focus on making positive changes and picking up information that will help you excel. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take a mental, physical or spiritual journey and explore new possibilities. Experiencing new cultures or ways of doing things will help you find solutions to pending problems. Attend a trade show or conference that offers insight or business possibilities. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You can make money by adding value to an asset you already own. Domestic problems, a settlement or legal issue may arise. Do your best to be realistic and put an end to any situation that has the potential to escalate. \*\*\*

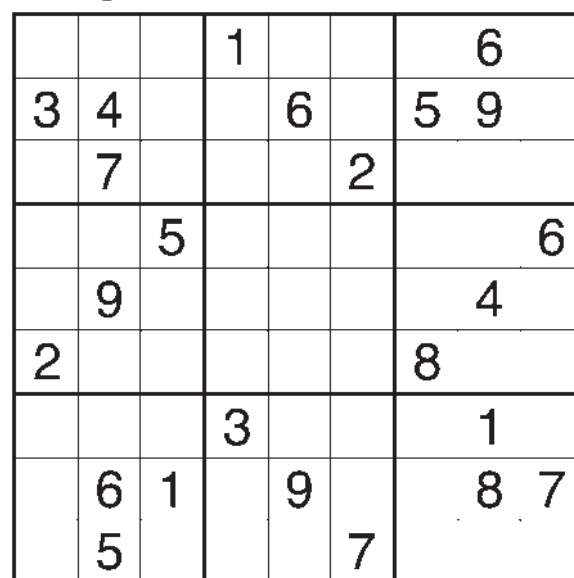
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Spread a little joy, show your romantic side and spend time with someone who sparks your enthusiasm. Positive, creative changes at home will add to your happiness and your emotional well-being. Explore unusual cultures or lifestyles. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Do what's asked of you and keep moving. Once you deal with responsibilities, you can make some positive alterations at home that will add to your comfort and entertainment. Your ability to get things done quickly will be impressive. \*\*\*

## SUDOKU

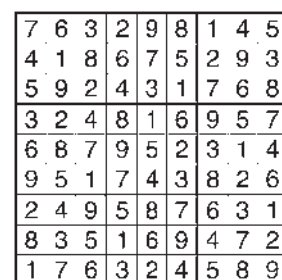
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

2/06

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## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take the initiative when it comes to important relationships. Whether through professional or personal connections, show your creativity by expressing your thoughts with passion and confidence. Home improvements will encourage togetherness. Don't be impulsive when it comes to making promises. \*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Listen carefully and hold your thoughts and your secrets until you feel safe and secure sharing what you think and feel. It's best to observe and consider every angle of a situation that has the potential to alter your life or an important relationship. \*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Good ideas and offering solutions will put you into the driver's seat. Step into the spotlight and share your knowledge, expertise and ideas, and you will end up with a deal, contract or agreement that is sure to raise your profile and your income. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are practical, determined and stubborn. You are resourceful and inventive. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JAY LENO'S LAST "TONIGHT SHOW"

Solution: 10 letters



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Big Dog, Carson, Chin, Coen, David, Dorian, Fallon, Funny, Garage, Guests, Headlines, Humor, Jack, Kevin, Larry, Lead, Liz, Mavis, Miguel, Muir, NBC, News, Open, Paul, Phone-in, Photo Booth, Pumpcast, Ratings, Raymond, Rickey, Shopping, Sketches, Spokesperson, Spree, Steve, Talk Show, Team, Teddy, Teenage, Vickers, Wasteland, Wayne, Weeknights, Wheel, Yesterday's Answer: Friend

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at [wonderword.universa.uclick.com](http://wonderword.universa.uclick.com). (Contains 100 puzzles.)







# Love, Timberwolves hand Lakers 7th straight loss



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—**Kevin Love landed hard on his hip after a foul late in the game. His head snapped back from the impact and hit the floor.

The All-Star power forward was all right afterward, a relief for the Minnesota Timberwolves. The win over the languishing Los Angeles Lakers was nice, too.

Love had 31 points and 17 rebounds to lead the Timberwolves to 109-99 victory on Tuesday that spoiled Steve Nash's return and stuck the Lakers with their seventh straight defeat.

"I just want to continue to keep playing and give this team all that I can," Love said. "Yeah, I've taken a physical beating, but you've got to expect being one of the top guys that they're going to come at you."

Kevin Martin helped the Timberwolves get off to a fast start, scoring 14 of his season-high-tying 32 points in the opening 10 minutes as the NBA's highest-scoring first-quarter team surged to a 25-point lead midway through the second period. They stumbled some after halftime, letting the Lakers pull within seven points early in the fourth quarter.

"It's just one of those things where the game isn't going to be as easy as you think," coach Rick Adelman said. "You just have to persevere."

With Nikola Pekovic likely out through the All-Star break, the Wolves started a difficult week, a theme of Adelman's pregame message. They play at Oklahoma City on Wednesday and New Orleans on Friday before hosting Portland on Saturday, a crucial stretch for a team running out of time to climb back into the playoff picture.

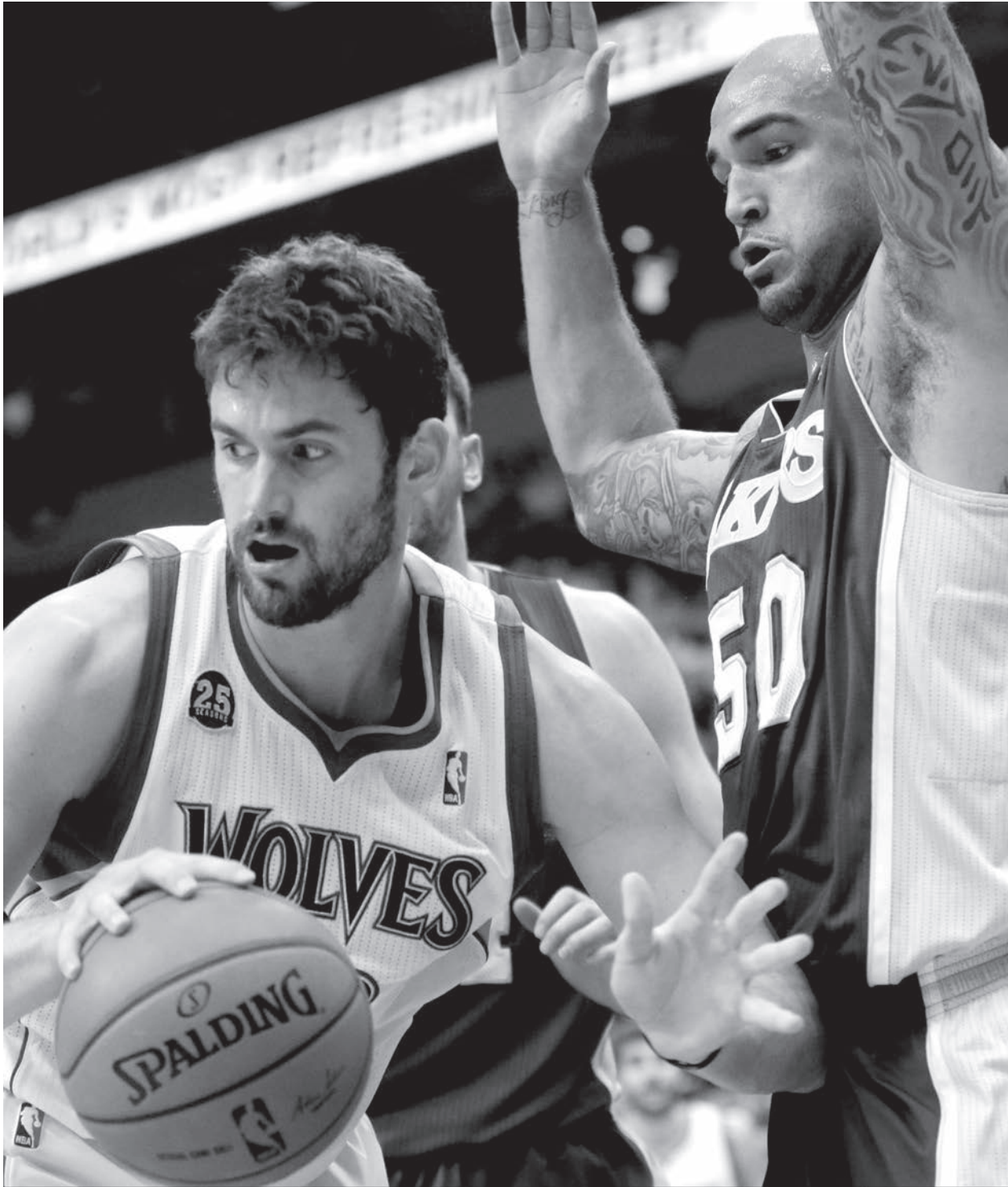
But Love picked up the Wolves and carried them to an important win, playing the part of the burly Pekovic by throwing his body at the basket as often as he could. He made it to the line for 18 free throws, making 13.

"We realize how good he is. He has incredible toughness," Martin said, adding: "He gets dirty down there. That's why we pay him the big bucks and that's why he's an All-Star starter, to do things like that."

Nash had been sidelined since Nov. 10 because of nerve problems in his back. The soon-to-be-40-year-old two-time league MVP had seven points and nine assists in 25 minutes, about 10 more than he was supposed to play.

"I feel a bit selfish in that we lost but it felt great just to play in the NBA again," Nash said, smiling. "Obviously the game didn't go as we hoped, but for me personally that's pretty cool to be back out there."

Coach Mike D'Antoni was pleased. "I thought he competed, and we've got to have everybody compete that way," D'Antoni said.



Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love, left, looks for help as Los Angeles Lakers' Robert Sacre defends during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, in Minneapolis.

Steve Blake also returned, coming back from a torn ligament in his right elbow that had shelved him since Dec. 10. He ruptured his eardrum during the game but kept playing on another night of bad luck and bad defense for the fallen franchise. Blake was scoreless in 31 minutes and took only two shots.

Fittingly, as soon as two guys came back, two more went out.

Jodie Meeks (sprained right ankle, first quarter) and backup Jordan Hill (headache and neck strain, first quarter) were hurt for the Lakers, who have been without star Kobe Bryant for most of the season. Pau Gasol also sat out with a strained right groin and could be out until after the All-Star break.

D'Antoni said Meeks won't play the rest of the road trip at Cleveland

on Wednesday or at Philadelphia on Friday. Hill was walking stiffly in the locker room after the game but was held out as a precaution, the coach said.

"I just feel for those guys. I just was in their position," Blake said. "Unfortunately it's a part of the game, and the rest of us have to pick it up."

The Lakers' reserves had a whopping 70 points, with Nick Young (24 points), Manny Harris (19 points) and former Timberwolves first-round draft pick Wes Johnson (15 points and nine rebounds) leading the way. But the Lakers still lost for the 19th time in their last 22 games and fell into a tie for last place in the Western Conference with Utah and Sacramento.

This was also their first loss at Target Center in almost seven years,

ending an 11-game run.

## Bulls 101, Suns 92

In Phoenix, Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and the Bulls snapped the Suns' five-game winning streak.

The Bulls shot 45 percent from the field and had five players score in double figures, bouncing back from an ugly 99-70 loss at Sacramento on Monday. The Bulls shot 28 percent and were out-rebounded 53-30 against the Kings.

One night later, it was a completely different story.

Jimmy Butler and D.J. Augustin had 18 points apiece for the Bulls, who won for the fifth straight time in Phoenix. Joakim Noah, who was ejected in the third quarter of the loss at Sacramento, had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Goran Dragic led Phoenix with 24 points. Channing Frye had 18.

## Pacers 89, Hawks 85

In Atlanta, David West scored 22 points and Paul George added 18, helping NBA-leading Indiana get the win.

The Pacers snapped a 12-game regular-season losing streak in Atlanta while improving the league's best record to 38-10.

Atlanta failed to place a starter in double figures. It had won two straight and five of seven.

Jeff Teague and Kyle Korver had nine points apiece for the Hawks, but All-Star forward Paul Millsap went 2 for 11 from the field and finished with seven points.

Teague made a 3-pointer to give Atlanta a 41-35 lead with 1:06 left in the second quarter, but the Hawks were out-scored 38-16 over the next 17 minutes.

Cartier Martin's 3 cut Indiana's lead to 86-84 with 14.9 seconds left. C.J. Watson and Danny Granger then combined for three free throws to help the Pacers hold on for the win.

## Bobcats 91, Warriors 75

In Oakland, Calif., Al Jefferson had 30 points and 13 rebounds and Gerald Henderson added 17 points and eight rebounds for Charlotte in Kemba Walker's much-anticipated return.

Walker finished with seven points, seven assists and six rebounds after missing the last seven games with a sprained left ankle. He played 33 minutes.

The Bobcats went ahead by 18 points late in the third quarter and 22 midway through the fourth. Charlotte, which shot 47.4 percent, held the Warriors to a season-low 31.2 percent shooting.

Stephen Curry had 17 points and 11 assists, Klay Thompson scored 12 and Andrew Bogut grabbed 15 rebounds for the Warriors, who have been held below 38 percent shooting in three of their past four games.

The Bobcats closed out their road trip 3-1 and swept the season against the Warriors.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Bulls' Noah fined by NBA

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah has been fined by the NBA for yelling at the officials after he was ejected from a game at Sacramento. The league announced the \$15,000 penalty on Tuesday. Noah received two technical fouls in less than three minutes during the third quarter of Chicago's 99-70 loss on Monday night. The All-Star gestured at the referees and yelled obscenities as he was escorted off the court at the 7:40 mark.

Noah apologized for his actions after the game.

### Jackson sets NBDL scoring record with 58 points

**BOISE, Idaho (AP)—**Pierre Jackson set an NBA Development League record when he scored 58 points in Idaho's 136-122 victory over the Texas Legends on Tuesday night. Jackson was 24 for 33 from the field, including a 7-for-13 performance from 3-point range. He also had eight assists and six rebounds. The previous scoring record of 53 points was set by Morris Almond in 2008 and matched by Will Conroy in 2009. It was Jackson's seventh game this season with 40 or more points. He is averaging an NBDL-best 30.2 points.

## Ex-NBA star McGrady tries hand as baseball pitcher

**HOUSTON (AP)—**Tracy McGrady wants to follow Michael Jordan's path to the national pastime.

The retired seven-time NBA All-Star is aiming to become a baseball player, and plans to try pitching for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League. That's the same team that Roger Clemens pitched for a couple of years ago.

Jordan famously played in the Chicago White Sox organization in 1994

during his first retirement from basketball, reaching the Double-A level.

A statement from the Skeeters says that it is a "lifelong dream" of McGrady's to play baseball.

"McGrady has demonstrated skill, determination and diligence during his training program," the statement said. "We look forward to monitoring his progress."

The 34-year-old McGrady played for several teams, including the

Houston Rockets and Orlando Magic. He last played in the NBA in the 2012-13 season.

The Skeeters last made national headlines when Clemens pitched two games for them in 2012 at age 50.

McGrady made seven consecutive All-Star games from 2001-07. The 6-foot-8 McGrady, natural right-hander, was drafted out of high school with the ninth overall pick in 1997 by the Toronto Raptors. He spent his first

three seasons with the Raptors before becoming a star with the Magic. He spent four years with the Magic and led the NBA scoring in both the 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons.

He then joined the Rockets where he teamed with Yao Ming to help Houston to three playoff appearances.

McGrady played for the Knicks, Detroit, Atlanta, and San Antonio after a six-year stint with the Rockets. He retired with more than 18,000 points and more than 5,000 rebounds in his career.



# After 4 years, Carroll, Seahawks reach pinnacle



**SEATTLE (AP)**—The guitar riffs ripped from the hotel ballroom where owner Paul Allen's

band was performing and filled the lobby. Down on the lower level, Hall of Famer Walter Jones posed for pictures with exuberant fans.

This celebration in the wee hours of Monday morning was what Pete Carroll envisioned when he arrived in Seattle in January 2010 and was finally given the full say over an NFL franchise in the hopes of replicating at the professional level what he was able to accomplish in college.

Celebrating was standard practice when Carroll was at USC. But the party that followed Sunday's 43-8 blow-out of Denver that gave Seattle its first NFL title topped all those previous celebrations.

It may just be the beginning for the Seahawks.

"This is exactly what we envisioned from day one. We were going to be right here and win this football game—and it just happened to be in New York, which makes it even more special—in the fashion that we were able," Carroll said. "We deserved it and we earned it because this is exactly what we've been preparing for, and we expected it. That may sound cocky. That may sound arrogant. But it's a mentality you can't get in one week."

Seattle's coronation was the culmination of an overhaul that Carroll and general manager John Schneider embarked upon when they took control of the Seahawks. Nearly 1,000 roster moves later, they could finally take the ultimate satisfaction in what they had created: the envy of the NFL.

The Seahawks are mean and talented on defense. They have one of the most dynamic young players in the game in quarterback Russell Wilson. And the surrounding cast complements him well.

There is very little indication this will be a one-year flash.

"One of the things that happens every so often is teams have a big fallout after they win the Super Bowl," Carroll said. "We're not in that situation."

Seattle's title will be remembered for a dominating defense that will be



Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll arrives with his wife, Glena, and the team Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle.

regarded among the best in league history. Richard Sherman's play at cornerback—and sometimes his mouth—drew the attention but that defense was far more than Sherman and his "Legion of Boom" teammates in the secondary. Linebacker Bobby Wagner was even better in his second season, while Su-

per Bowl MVP Malcolm Smith was called upon to play different positions throughout the season.

The signings of Cliff Avril and Michael Bennett on the defensive line, and the re-signing of Clinton McDonald after Week 1, gave the Seahawks the deepest defensive line rotation in

the league, all with plenty of energy to chase Colin Kaepernick in the NFC title game and harass Peyton Manning in the Super Bowl.

Offensively, the Seahawks were without their top two wide receivers for most of the season between Percy Harvin's preseason hip surgery and

Sidney Rice's midseason knee injury. But Harvin showed just why the Seahawks made the investment with his 87-yard kickoff return touchdown that was essentially the final blow in the Super Bowl.

Golden Tate and Doug Baldwin believed they were disrespected all season and were intent on proving critics wrong. For the most part, they did, while Jermaine Kearse continued to play the role of another undrafted gem discovered by Schneider.

The offensive line missed both starting tackles—Breno Giacomini and Russell Okung—for more than half the regular season due to injuries but managed.

And Marshawn Lynch continued to go "Beast Mode" at just the right times.

Seattle should be able to keep its core together but there will be difficult decisions to make. There are key free agents, including Baldwin and Tate. There are also potential salary cap decisions to be made with players like Rice, Zach Miller, Chris Clemons, Brandon Mebane and Red Bryant.

Then there are the two looming extensions that could get done this offseason—Earl Thomas and Sherman.

Both players can be extended before the start of next season, but the likelihood is that Seattle tries to get a deal done with Thomas first and then see if an extension will work for Sherman. So far, Sherman has been the ultimate bargain for Seattle, scheduled to make less than \$700,000 in base salary next season. Thomas and Sherman are entering the final year of their rookie contracts in 2014 and with both now two-time All-Pro selections, each is likely due a hefty raise.

If Seattle can get both extensions done, it would allow them to focus on Wilson during the 2014-15 offseason when his rookie deal can be redone.

"We are looking two to three years ahead so last year we knew we were going to have some things coming and how to handle certain players and to know just where we are headed," Schneider said recently. "We put different models together. Matt Thomas does a phenomenal job with it. Figure out the best way to navigate it. They are really good problems to have."

**ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)**—Three times during his Hall of Fame playing career, John Elway slogged through the rubble of a Super Bowl landslide.

Forty-eight hours after Denver's devastating 43-8 defeat by Seattle in this year's Super Bowl, the Broncos' boss was asked how long it took him to get over those big blowouts.

"I'm not over them yet," Elway said. "I just add this one to it."

Elway understands Broncos fans are struggling to come to grips with just how the highest-scoring team in league history self-destructed and five-time MVP Peyton Manning managed but a single touchdown throw against the Seahawks.

"It was a great year," Elway said. "We came up short, but it wasn't due to lack of effort or lack of want-to. We didn't play very well two days ago. I know that's what everybody is disappointed about. We're disappointed about it, players are disappointed. But, it was a hell of a year.

## *Elway knows the pain will linger for Broncos, fans*

We went through a lot of different things, but I'm proud of the team."

A half hour later, with coach John Fox by his side and the season-ending news conference wrapping up, Elway asked to add one thing because he felt the need to remind everyone that this season wasn't an utter failure.

"Right now the focus is on what happened instead of how we got there and what we did this year, what we went through as a team. But I say that the farther you get away from this, the less you concentrate on just that one game, the more you recognize the whole season and really what we did as a football team and really as an organization," Elway said. "And I'll tell you what, I'm very proud of that."

Sure, changes need to be made, he said, but not the wholesale kind.

After the Broncos' crushing loss to Baltimore in last year's playoffs, Elway created what Manning called an

"uncomfortable atmosphere" around Dove Valley, a reminder of the scar that loss left.

It served as the impetus for this 15-4 season that came up just short of a championship.

Now, Elway's promising to navigate this offseason with the notion that this Super Bowl loss will drive Denver to next year's title game in the Arizona desert, and this time, he hopes they'll be better prepared for the big stage.

"The goal has not changed and it will not change," Elway insisted. "We will use this as an experience that we went through, be disappointed that we didn't play better, but the bottom line is this organization and what (team owner) Pat Bowlen wants from this organization—that has not changed and it will not change.

"The bottom line is we're going to work as hard as we worked this year, if not harder, and continue to do that with

the mindset that we want to be world champions and we're going to do everything we can to get there."

An hour earlier, players trudged through the locker room cleaning out their belongings and saying goodbye to one another, some for a couple of months, others for good.

"It's tough, talking about the game and where we go from here," said wide receiver Eric Decker, soon to be a free agent. "Obviously we're very disappointed about the results. You can't change anything, you just learn from it. It's just as tough today if not tougher than two days ago."

Like Elway, Decker wasn't sure he's ever going to really get over this loss.

"I don't know where or when that corner is," he said. "We were in this similar situation last year, Baltimore, we felt like we had the pieces for a championship season. It sticks with you and motivates you, it never goes

away. You learn to fuel your fire from it, to deal with it and to move on with it."

Decker and Knowshon Moreno and Zane Beadles said they prefer to stay in Denver, but they know the Broncos can't keep all their guys together.

Either way, none of them wanted to ponder their own future just like they didn't want to look back on the Super Bowl and try to figure out where it went wrong.

"It's too fresh to get a good idea," Beadles said. "As the offseason goes on here there will be plenty of time to reflect back and figure those things out. If I am here we've got to come back stronger than ever."

Fox told his players to walk out of the building with their heads held high.

"I know there is disappointment," Fox said. "It will take a while to go away for all of us, but at the end of the day, it was a successful season: 15-4 is not real shabby."



# Braves reach long-term deals with Freeman, Heyward

**ATLANTA (AP)**—The Atlanta Braves agreed to eight-year contract with first baseman Freddie Freeman that is worth about \$125 million on Tuesday.

The deal was confirmed by the team on Tuesday night.

Earlier in the day, outfielder Jason Heyward and the Braves agreed to a \$13.3 million, two-year contract. Heyward and Freeman had filed for salary arbitration last month.

The 24-year-old Freeman was an All-Star last year when he hit .319 with 23 homers and 109 RBIs. He matched his career high in home runs and set highs in batting average and RBIs which finishing fifth in NL MVP voting. He has topped 20 home runs in three straight seasons.

“Freddie has established himself as one of the best young talents in the game,” Braves general manager Frank Wren said. “We are excited to sign one of our own homegrown players to a contract that will keep him in a Braves uniform for the next eight seasons.”

Closer Craig Kimbrel is the Braves’ only player left in arbitration.

Heyward, also 24, and Freeman are key members of the Braves’ core of young stars. Kimbrel, shortstop Andrelton Simmons, outfielder Justin Upton and starting pitchers Julio Teheran and Mike Minor are 26 or younger. Evan Gattis, 27, is replacing Brian McCann as the starting catcher.

Heyward was happy to avoid arbitration.

“In my head it basically says to me, let’s go play some baseball,” he said.

Heyward is coming off an injury-filled season, and Wren said the relative lack of playing time complicated the arbitration process and helped make the two-year contract possible.

Heyward hit .254 with 14 homers and 38 RBIs in a career-low 104 games during his fourth season with the Braves. He had an appendectomy on April 22 and broke his jaw on Aug. 21 when he was hit by a pitch from New York Mets left-hander Jon Niese.

“Last year was such a tough year physically, through no fault of his own, with the appendectomy and getting hit in the face,” Wren said. “So it also made it tough for both sides in an arbitration situation because it’s hard to pin a number when you’re comparing to players who played a lot more.”

Heyward said he has moved past his injuries.

“Physically, I feel great, being 24 years old and being blessed with some genetics to go along with that,” he said. “I’m growing up still in this game and I’m looking forward to what my body is going to allow me to do going forward.”

Heyward’s deal calls for a \$1 million signing bonus, payable in equal installments on May 1 and July 1, and salaries of \$4.5 million this year and \$7.8 million in 2015.

The 2015 salary would esca-



In this Sept. 26, 2013, file photo, Atlanta Braves’ Freddie Freeman heads to first base after drawing a walk in the second inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Atlanta.

late based on a points system for 2014 accomplishments, going up \$500,000 for 20 points and then by \$25,000 for each additional point. Heyward would earn 10 points each for 502 plate appearances, All-Star game se-

lection, a Gold Glove award, a Silver Slugger award and finishing 11th-to-20th in MVP voting. He would receive 15 points for 6th-to-10th in MVP, 25 points for third-to-fifth and 35 points for first or second.

Heyward enjoyed his best season in 2012, when he hit .269 and set career highs with 27 homers, 82 RBIs and 21 stolen bases.

Heyward’s injuries did not prevent him from showcasing

## ENFORCERS

From Page 28

who also gave the Enforcers their first run off a stolen base at the top of the first, earned two more strikeouts in the second inning and another 1-3 putout play to help his team take a 4-0 lead. The Enforcers got the three runs in the second inning off a passed ball, a pitcher’s error, and fielder’s choice.

## THUNDERCATS

From Page 28

starts its 2014 season this Sunday. Joining Camacho on the newly-crowned division champions are goalie Greg Borja, Jordan Butcher, Frank Jeon, Don Cabrera, Kei Yoshida, Thomas Jung, Won Seok Sung, Woo Seok Choi, Juanito Tiamzon, Makani Gramlich, Keoni Borja, Michael Santos, Hae Lee, An-

The Enforcers widened the gap, as they collected five more runs in the last four innings, while Secharmidal and his teammates continued to frustrate the Falcons. The Falcons scored three runs in the fourth with Secharmidal and Agda’s singles bringing Nathan Nogis and Shakobe Rangamar home, respectively, and Elthan Babauta’s triple driving Agda. The two other runs came off passed balls and error at third base and were

gelo Gueverra, Eric Atalig, Bob Choi, and Tae Yeol Yun.

The Thundercats finished the 2013 season with a second-field best 27 goals and gave up only 11, the least among the four teams. Shirley’s FC had the most goals with 28, while Sun Palace and the CNMI Women’s National Team had 20 and 13, respectively.

Meanwhile, the winner of the Division 1 crown will be decided once the two remaining games

made at the top of the bottom of the fifth inning.

Earlier at the bottom fifth, the Falcons had an opportunity to break the spell when second batter Kobe Lifoifo singled, stole second, and reached third off a passed ball with only one out. However, he was stranded along with one other runner, as Secharmidal and Babauta teamed up anew in a 1-3 putout play, while leftfielder Quinton Deleon Guerrero

are completed.

Wild Bill’s, which was scheduled to face Paire FC last night and will play MP United on its last game, is battling the division championship against Tan Holdings FC and Korean Football Association on Saipan. Pending results of last night’s game between Wild Bill’s and Paire, KFAS is clinging to a one-point lead (22) against Tan Holdings FC and two over Wild Bill’s. KFAS holds a 7-1-2 win-draw-

caught a fly ball.

After doing a lot of damage to the Falcons’ struggling offense, Secharmidal got a well-deserved rest in favor of Agda, who gave up a quick hit (double) to Don Fejeran at the top of the sixth. However, Fejeran was later beaten to second and the Falcons were called for two quick outs, with Iguel flying out at second and Oscar Lizama caught in a 6-3 putout play, to remain scoreless, with

loss record, Tan Holdings has a 7-0-3 mark, and Wild Bill’s owns a 6-2-0 card.

Completing the standings are Inter Godfather’s (5-1-4), MP United (4-0-5), Paire (3-1-5), Kanoa FC (3-1-6), and Matansa FC (0-0-10), which will be relegated to Division 2 for finishing last in the 2013 season.

Wild Bill’s and KFAS remained in contention for the Division 1 crown after settling for a draw in last Sunday’s game.

only one inning to go.

The Falcons went on to miss its last chance of breaking it to the scoreboard at the top of the seventh, as Keikuni Kainoa was left at third base with Agda getting the second out on a 1-3 putout play and striking Jeremy Ngiraked out. Agda was also responsible for the first out when he threw to second base and Falcons leadoff batter Evangelista was tagged out.

Jack Thoensaket and Tanapon Unsa scored one goal apiece in the second half for Wild Bill’s, while Brian Lee and Chong Koo Gil delivered for KFAS.

In other results, Inter Godfather’s foiled Tan Holding’s bid to grab the division lead after pulling off a 1-0 win. Ryu Tanzawa scored for Godfather’s with only two minutes left in the match. Kanoa FC also managed to score one goal, courtesy of Marc Mora, to nose out MP United.

the Tigers for good, as the latter also scored three runs. The Atty. O’Conner-backed Tigers got one run from Mark Flores in the sixth off Toves’ sacrifice fly and two in seventh from Monkeya’s two-RBI single to remain in contention, but lost their debut eventually with Cepeda taking over the mound and shutting out their foes.

## BACK

From Page 28

While Cepeda took care of the Brewers’ defense, third baseman Nokki Saralu was the defending champions’ main man on offense. Saralu went 2-for-3 at the plate and scored three RBIs and one run. Starting catcher Jun

Rabauliman added two RBIs off a 2-for-5 performance at bat.

Saralu’s sacrifice fly that brought Tyrone Omar home put the Brewers on the board, while Rabauliman made it a 2-0 lead with his RBI double. The Brewers tucked on one more run in the second inning off Omar’s RBI single, while the Tigers failed to score in the first three innings

with Ton Camacho pitching for the defending champions.

Camacho pitched four innings and after giving up three earned runs in the bottom of the fourth, he was relieved by Santos. Santos came in after Tigers stole the lead, 4-3, off Mark Toves’ two-RBI single, Mabel Ngirmelas’ RBI single, and a Brewers’ error at left field with

two outs. Brewers centerfielder Lenny Sablan caught a fly ball to end the Tigers’ rally.

The Brewers then regained the upper hand quickly with Saralu’s two-RBI single at the bottom fourth and an RBI double from Ton Leon Guerrero. The defending champions added three more runs in the last four innings, but could not put away

his versatility. A 2012 Gold Glove winner in right field, Heyward started 20 games in center last year.

He spent most of the season hitting second in the order before he was moved to the leadoff spot by manager Fredi Gonzalez on July 27. Over his next 22 games, Heyward hit .349 with five homers, 15 RBIs and 23 runs.

Heyward is projected as Atlanta’s leadoff hitter.

“He provides a great presence,” Wren said. “The one thing we saw, especially after Fredi moved him to the leadoff spot, it allowed him to utilize his speed, it allowed him to utilize his ability to get on base even to a greater degree.”

“I think other teams felt pressure from the very first pitch of the game, because all of a sudden now you’ve got a 6-foot-6, 230-pound leadoff hitter that can do some damage from the get-go. That came back to us time and time again, that there’s no let up. It starts right away.”

Heyward is eligible for free agency after the 2015 season. He had asked for a raise from \$3.65 million to \$5.5 million in arbitration and had been offered \$5.2 million.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	22	.542	—
Brooklyn	21	25	.457	4
New York	19	29	.396	7
Boston	16	33	.327	10½
Philadelphia	15	34	.306	11½

#### Southeast Division

Miami	34	13	.723	—
Atlanta	25	22	.532	9
Washington	24	23	.511	10
Charlotte	22	28	.440	13½
Orlando	13	37	.260	22½

#### Central Division

Indiana	38	10	.792	—
Chicago	24	24	.500	14
Detroit	19	28	.404	18½
Cleveland	16	32	.333	22
Milwaukee	9	39	.188	29

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	13	.729	—
Houston	32	17	.653	3½
Dallas	28	21	.571	7½
Memphis	26	21	.553	8½
New Orleans	20	27	.426	14½

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	11	.780	—
Portland	34	14	.708	4
Denver	23	23	.500	14
Minnesota	24	24	.500	14
Utah	16	32	.333	22

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	34	17	.667	—
Phoenix	29	19	.604	3½
Golden State	29	20	.592	4
L.A. Lakers	16	32	.333	16½
Sacramento	16	32	.333	16½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run 10K Finishers

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Three youth runners sprint to the finish line of last month's 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run's 10K race at the American Memorial Park.



Two runners are egged on by early finishers to go for a down-to-the-wire finish.



Three runners head to the finish line soaked in rain.



Betty Johnson slows down as she is a few steps away from completing the 10K race.



Dylan Ackerman steps on the gas heading to the last few meters of the race.



Joe Villacrusis nears completion of the race.



A female runner smiles as she nears the finish line.



Haruya Eda goes for a strong finish.





# Saipan Tribune Sports



28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Enforcers take Junior League lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Virgil Secharmidal flirted with a no-hitter to power the JPO Enforcers to a 9-0 spanking of the Talaabwogh Falcons in the Junior League game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The victory was the third in as many games for the Enforcers, who are now at solo top spot in the six-team competition, while the Falcons fell to a 1-2 slate and joined the Fielders at the bottom of the standings.

The Jets and the Comets complete the field and share second place after holding similar 2-1 cards.

The Enforcers are alone at the No. 1 position, as Secharmidal showed an impressive performance on the mound. He pitched five innings and allowed only one hit, while striking out five and giving up no runs. Kier



Ada relieved Secharmidal at the top of the sixth and the former picked up where the latter left off, shutting out the Falcons and allowing only one hit. The rest of the Enforcers defense held on to prevent the Falcons from

scoring.

The Falcons was in a scoring position right in the first inning, but leadoff batter Kody Omengkar was stranded at third, as Secharmidal got the first two outs on a 1-3 putout play and a strikeout, while rightfielder Jordan Kosam caught a fly ball from Benen Iguel. Secharmidal, **See ENFORCERS on Page 26**

## Thundercats clinch division crown



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Thundercats eked out a 1-0 win over Shirley's FC in their last game of the season in the 2013 M-League to bag the Division 2 championship last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Norman Camacho delivered the lone goal in the match, as he scored in the 40th minute. The Thundercats finished the season with a 6-3-1 win-draw-loss record and collected 21 points, four points ahead of Sun Palace, which owned a 5-2-3 slate. Shirley's FC, which could have snatched the division championship had it defeated the Thundercats, settled for third after falling to a 5-1-4 card and getting 16 points. The CNMI Women's National Team completed the field and managed to gain one win in nine games.



With the division win, the Thundercats will be playing in Division 1 when the M-League **See THUNDERCATS on Page 26**

The Thundercats' Don Cabrera goes for a throw-in during the first half of their game against Shirley's FC in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The JPO Enforcers' Virgil Secharmidal delivers a pitch to the Falcons during the top of the first inning of their Junior League game last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## Back-to-back wins for Brewers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Defending champions Brewers met a tougher competitor in their second game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League, pulling off 9-7 victory over the Tigers last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

After coasting to a 22-2 win over the Fielders in the league's opener late last month, the Brewers had to labor for their second triumph and leaned on Vince Cepeda's steady pitching in the last 2.1 innings to thwart the debuting Tigers. Cepeda gave up no hits and sixth strikeouts to tame the Tigers.

Cepeda was the Brewers

third pitcher, coming in for Elton Santos, who allowed a two-RBI single to Palmerson Monkeya at the top of the seventh inning. With the two runs, the Tigers threatened the defending champions with only one out and the bases loaded. However, the three runners were stranded, as Cepeda struck out McGary Sebaklim for the second out and Mark Flores was beaten to second base.

Cepeda went on to gain five more strikeouts, booting out the Tigers' first three batters in the eighth inning and the first two in the ninth and last, which ended after right fielder Kaigel Taitano caught a fly ball from third batter Phil Celis.

**See BACK on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Ian Rogolifoi, left, and Brewers' Byron Kaipat are at first base and getting ready for the next play during the top of the third inning of their game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.